Reports focus on farmer stress in Guam, NMI, FSM. PAGE 3
3rd Beef, Beer, & Bands Festival this weekend on Tinian. PAGE 9

$1

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FRIDAY AUGUST 11, 2023
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MATTHEW THAYER/ THE MAUI NEWS VIA AP

The hall of historic Waiola Church in Lahaina and nearby Lahaina Hongwanji Mission are engulfed in flames along Wainee Street on Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, in Lahaina, Hawaii.

At least 36 people have died in Hawaii wildfires

By AUDREY MCAVOY, JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER and NICK PERRY
Associated Press

WAILUKU, Hawaii (AP)—At least 36 people have died in the Lahaina fire in Hawaii, Maui County wrote in a statement posted to the county

See WILDFIRES on Page 4

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

IN CARES FUNDS REVIEW

$11.1M in questioned costs

The U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Inspector General has found approximately $11 million in questioned costs in the CNMI's use of Coronavirus Relief Funds, more commonly known as "CARES Act funds."

See $11.1M on Page 4

House passes $115.4M budget bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With only Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Rota) voting "no," the House of Representatives passed last night a bill that proposes a $115.4-million budget for the CNMI government for fiscal year 2024.

Seventeen House members

See HOUSE on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
50

RAPE TRIAL
Kenneth Thomas Blas, in a Hawaiian shirt, who is the defendant in an ongoing rape trial, exits Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan's courtroom yesterday behind his lawyer, Brien Ser Nicholas.
See story on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Jorgensen: Mendiola, Reyes are 'lapdogs'

Jorgensen

Mendiola

Reyes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawyer Bruce Lee Jorgensen downplayed yesterday Sen. Dennis James C. Mendiola's (R-Rota) opposition to his appointment as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board representing Rota, describing it as "rehashed old news" that were reported and dispelled more than a month ago, a repetition of personal criticisms, the senator's own ignorance and disregard for acts, and

See LAPDOGS on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Beginning Aug. 12, Kili Café & Terrace reopens to lunch goers with an a la carte menu.
PAGE 14

ASIA
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has ordered his military to sharpen its war plans.
PAGE 16

OFF THE WALL
A single ticket sold in Florida is good for a $1.58 billion Mega Millions jackpot, ending weeks of anticipation.
PAGE 18

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

Club 'adopts' Civic Center Basketball Court

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Eagle Lions Club has adopted the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe on Wednesday, making it the seventh site to be "adopted" since the program was initiated by Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho last February.

As part of its adoption commitment, the club promises to resurface the basketball court and maintain the site, to encourage more people to use it.

Club president, Marie Luna Javier thanked Camacho for the opportunity to adopt the area. "Thank you so much and I'm glad you have trusted the Saipan Eagle Lions Club to be able to serve the community in our little ways."

Javier said this initiative will not only maintain the area but also promote health and wellness among people. "Rather than sitting for hours, it's best they get out and sweat and keep in shape. It's like family bonding as well," she said.

Camacho also underscored the need for recreation in the community to combat diseases and obesity. He said sports is not only about physical fitness, but also about building relationships among players.

He also urged other agencies to collaborate with the Lions Club. "Let's not push these volunteers away because they're contributing to

See CLUB on Page 4

LEIGH GASES

The Saipan Eagle Lions Club, along with its president, Marie Luna Javier, ninth from left, pose with Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, eighth from left, after the club committed to maintain the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe on Wednesday.

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Reports focus on farmer stress in Guam, NMI, FSM

First-time data on farmer stress in Guam and the rest of the Mariana and Micronesian islands has been quantified in a set of reports released in June. The reports summarize the responses of 161 farm workers and 216 farmers in the U.S. territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands and the freely associated Federated States of Micronesia regarding their largest stressors and areas they would most like to receive support.

The National Violent Death Reporting System of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention reported in 2016 that farmers are one of five industry groups with the highest suicide rates, with 36 suicides per 100,000 workers.

To combat this statistic, Washington State University obtained a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network to create the Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program and cultivate resilience among farmers, ranchers, and agricultural workers in Western states and territories. The program is carried out in the Micronesian region through the Farmer Focus Project at the University of Guam.

"The perception is that farmers stay really calm and cool, but in actuality, our farmers are more stressed than that," said Don McMoran, who first envisioned and now leads WRASAP as the Skagit County extension director at WSU. "I've seen it in my own community, and I wanted to be proactive in making sure that agriculture-related suicides do not happen anywhere."

The two regional farm stress reports are based on surveys conducted by WRASAP and the extension programs at UOG, Northern Mariana College, and the College of Micronesia-FSM.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Dr. Kuan-Ju Chen, an agricultural economist at the University of Guam and lead of the Farmer Focus Project, hands out the agricultural stress surveys to local farmers in 2021. The results for surveys in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia have been published at https://farmstress.us/wrasap-baseline-data-collection.

Of the 216 farm producers surveyed from May to October 2021, the majority—69% in the Northern Mariana Islands and 80% in both Guam and the FSM—reported a medium level of stress. And 73% of farm workers across these islands, who were surveyed separately from December 2022 to March 2023, reported a medium level of stress. These percentages were calculated using the Perceived Stress Scale 10, or PSS-10, a commonly used psychological questionnaire.

"It is safe to say that folks in the 'medium' range could benefit from more positive coping skills in their toolbox, which can often include counseling," said Dr. Michelle U. Grocke-Dewey, a health and wellness specialist with MSU Extension, who leads the data collection and reports for WRASAP. "Although PSS is by no means a diagnostic instrument, it does give us some insight into how individuals and perceiving their stressors as either manageable or unmanageable."

Top stressors for Guam and Micronesia's farmers

The top stressors among farm workers on the islands surveyed are grieving the death of a family member or friend, crop and plant diseases, and financial worries. For farmers/producers, the top stressors included production costs, weed and pest control, COVID-19, finances, and family—in particular, parenting.

"As a farmer, the stress I have is worrying about the growth of crops—if they are going to survive or not. […] Sometimes we lose most of our crops due to diseases or bacteria," said Johsper Nedlick Jr., an agricultural technician in the hydroponics center at College of Micronesia-FSM.

Research from 2012 shows that higher levels on the PSS-10 have been associated with elevated markers of biological aging, higher cortisol levels, as well as suppressed immune function. Additional research shows that people who score higher on the PSS report sleeping fewer hours, skipping breakfast, and consuming greater quantities of alcohol.

Custom conferences for each island

To better cope with stress, farmers primarily indicated interest in educational content related to finances, succession and retirement planning, and career and relationship support. Farm workers were also interested in financial management education but additionally expressed interest in nutrition/cooking and physical activity.

In response to the survey results, the Farmer Focus Project at UOG will be holding educational conferences and trainings on a different island in the region every year. The first was held last year in Guam for some 100 farmers, farm workers, and agricultural professionals. A second conference was held in June this year on the island of Pohnpei in the FSM with 25 participants.

The conferences share take-home resources and tools, including hotline numbers for emergencies and websites with helpful resources, including AgWell.org, Utah State University's Ag Wellness, and farmstress.us. Sessions focus on the host island's top interests and have included topics such as indigenous ways of coping with stress, writing and stretching for stress relief, and how to make healthier eating choices among locally available foods.

Additionally, 36 professionals who work with farmers in Guam and Pohnpei have been certified in Mental Health First Aid over a one-day training during the conference.

"It's really helpful for us so we can identify if our clients are having stress in the field," said Rickyes Ikin, who works directly with Pohnpei farmers as an assistant of the College of Micronesia-FSM extension program. "[Now], when we see the symptoms, we can ask what's wrong and how we can help."

"Farming is really high-risk work, and farmers do not really talk about their spirits too much, especially their stress level, so we really want to bring this awareness to our region," said Dr. Kuan-Ju Chen, an agricultural economist at UOG and lead of the Farmer Focus Project.

The "Agricultural Producer Stress" territory reports for Guam, the NMI, and the FSM and the "Agricultural Worker Stress" report, which jointly reports worker data for all of the islands, can be viewed in further detail at https://farmstress.us/wrasap-baseline-data-collection. For more information, residents may contact Dr. Kuan-Ju Chen at chenkj@triton.uog.edu. ***(UOG)***

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2023

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Under the general direction of the CPA Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for the planning, supervision, and coordination of the management, operation, and maintenance of all CNMI airports and seaports, as stated in the CPA statue and regulations. The Executive Director is in charge and control of the operation and maintenance of all CPA ports. The Executive Director is also in full charge and control of construction of all CPA ports, facilities, and other necessary or incidental works controlled by or required to be constructed or repaired by CPA. The Executive Director exercises independent judgment in finding solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist.

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Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Monday, September 11, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

‘Forensic DNA backs allegations vs rape suspect’

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The prosecution in the ongoing jury trial of a rape suspect rested four days into the trial after calling its final witness—an FBI forensic DNA analyst who provided evidence that supports the rape allegation against the defendant.

Assistant attorney general Steve Kessell, who is the lead prosecutor in the case, called their final witness in the jury trial of Kenneth Thomas Blas Kaipat, a man accused of raping his female cousin back in June 2019.

The prosecution’s final witness, FBI forensic DNA analyst Jaclyn Garfinkle, testified that, based on the rape kit done on the victim, semen was found in and on various parts of the victim’s body.

After testing the samples from the victim’s rape kit twice in separate times, it was determined that only one other set of DNA was found on them, with a significantly high probability that Blas was the contributor.

To put that into perspective, Garfinkle said that, based on her analysis, it’s over a million times likely that it was Blas’ semen and DNA that was found on the victim.

Despite this testimony, Blas’ defense attorney, Brien Ser Nicholas, argued that Garfinkle could not say with absolute certainty that the semen and DNA found on the victim was that of his client’s.

In response, Garfinkle explained that because of how DNA samples are analyzed, there is never 100% certainty that a DNA sample is unique to one person because, in order to do that, the FBI would need to test the entire world population’s DNA in order to say with absolute certainty that a DNA sample is unique to one specific person.

“Generally, it is not possible to say with 100% certainty that a DNA sample is unique to one person. Because DNA analysis deals with cross-referencing samples, DNA [matching] is about probability,” she said.

Ser Nicholas proceeded to argue that, aside from the rape kit, nothing from the crime scene was tested for DNA that would tie his client to the scene of the rape.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

WILDFIRES

From page 1

website Wednesday evening.

Wildfires, whipped by strong winds from Hurricane Dora passing far to the south, took the island of Maui by surprise, leaving behind burned-out cars on once busy streets and smoking piles of rubble where historic buildings had stood. Flames roared throughout the night, forcing adults and children to dive into the ocean for safety.

Officials said earlier that 271 structures were damaged or destroyed and dozens of people injured.

On Wednesday, crews were continuing to battle blazes in several places on the island. Authorities urged visitors to stay away.

Lahaina residents Kamuela Kawaakoa and Iiulia Yasso described a harrowing escape from under smoke-filled skies Tuesday afternoon. The couple and their 6-year-old son grabbed a change of clothes and ran as the bushes around them caught fire.

“We barely made it out in time,” Kawaakoa said at an evacuation shelter on Wednesday, still unsure if anything was left of their apartment.

As Kawaakoa and Yasso fled, a senior center erupted in flames. They called 911, but didn’t know if the people got out. Fire alarms blared. As they drove away, downed utility poles and fleeing cars slowed their progress.

Kawaakoa, 34, grew up in the apartment building, called Lahaina Surf, where his dad and grandmother also lived. Lahaina Town dates back to the 1700s and has long been a favorite destination for tourists.

“It was so hard to sit there and just watch my town burn to ashes and not be able to do anything,” Kawaakoa said. “I was helpless.”

The fires were the latest in a series of problems caused by extreme weather around the globe this summer. Experts say climate change is increasing the likelihood of such events.

As winds eased somewhat on Maui, some flights resumed Wednesday, allowing pilots to view the full scope of the devastation. Aerial video from Lahaina showed dozens of homes and businesses razed, including on Front Street, where tourists once gathered to shop and dine. Smoking heaps of rubble lay piled high next to the waterfront, boats in the harbor were scorched, and gray smoke hovered over the leafless skeletons of charred trees.

“It’s horrifying. I’ve flown here 52 years and I’ve never seen anything come close to that,” said Richard Olsten, a helicopter pilot for a tour company. “We had tears in our eyes.”

State Department of Education Superintendent Keith Hayashi said in a statement Wednesday that a team is working on contingency plans and preparing for the possible loss of an elementary school that had been in Lahaina for more than a century.

“Unofficial aerial photos show the King Kamehameha III Elementary campus—on Front Street in Lahaina—sustained extensive fire and structural damage,” he said. “The Department is striving to maintain regular school schedules to provide a sense of normalcy but will keep most Maui schools closed for the remainder of this week,” he said.

The Coast Guard said it rescued 14 people who jumped into the water to escape flames and smoke, including two children.

Among those injured were three people with critical burns who were flown to Straub Medical Center’s burn unit on the island of Oahu, officials said. At least 20 patients were taken to Maui Memorial Medical Center, officials said, and a firefighter was hospitalized in stable condition after inhaling smoke.

Richard Bissen Jr., the mayor of Maui County, said at a Wednesday morning news conference that he didn’t have details on how or where on the island the six deaths occurred. He said officials hadn’t yet begun investigating the immediate cause of the fires, but officials did point to the combination of dry conditions, low humidity and high winds.

$11.1M

From page 1

The questioned costs were among several other adverse findings identified by the audit, which reviewed and assessed obligation and expenditure data for the period of March 1, 2020, through March 31, 2022. The audit, transmitted to the CNMI Department of Finance on Aug. 9, 2023, was performed by Castro & Company, LLC, a certified independent public accounting firm in Washington, D.C. that specializes in providing services to the federal government.

“We have publicly discussed my predecessor’s irresponsible spending and the misallocation of funds, so the findings from this audit should perhaps come as no surprise,” said Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. “Unfortunately, the extraordinarily high amount of questioned costs that the Inspector General has found in the previous administration’s use of CARES Act funds means that we will have to dedicate more of our already-limited resources to fully address these issues and implement corrective action.”

As background, the U.S. Treasury provided a total of $36,284,217.70 in CARES Act funds to the CNMI. Allowable uses of CARES Act Funds are:

1. Necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19;

2. Expenditures that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020; and

3. Expenditures incurred between March 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2021.

In its desk review, the audit firm found the following:

1. CNMI personnel did not complete the required quarterly Financial Progress Reports for Cycles 1 through 3 (March 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2020).

2. Contracts greater than $50,000 did not comply with CARES Act and Treasury Guidance.

3. Contracts, Payments to Individuals, and Aggregate Reporting less than $50,000 did not comply with CARES Act and Treasury Guidance.

4. CNMI’s risk of unallowable use of funds is high.

5. Desk audit resulted in total questioned costs of $11,146,813.35. A questioned cost is a finding that is due to:

■ A violation or possible violation of a statute, regulation, or the terms and conditions of a federal award, including funds used to match federal funds;

■ Where the costs, at the time of the review, are not supported by adequate documentation; or

■ Where the costs incurred appear unreasonable and do not reflect the actions a prudent person would take in the circumstances.

“We will continue to refer findings to the Office of the Attorney General and hold individuals accountable for any activities deemed illegal or in direct violation of the CARES Act funds guidelines and requirements,” Palacios said.

Finance Secretary Tracy Norita said the Finance Department takes these desk audit findings seriously and will continue to work with the Inspector General to provide missing documentation and make necessary reporting corrections. “Additionally, we support the Inspector General’s recommendation for a full scope audit,” she said. “This will allow our department and other enforcement agencies to hold government officials accountable for any illegal or unauthorized expenditures of CARES Act funds.” ***(PR)***

HOUSE

From page 1

voted “yes” to pass House Bill 23-66, in the form of House Substitute 1, or the Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2024. The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

Reps. Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho (D-Saipan) and Vicente Castro Camacho (D-Saipan) were absent but excused from the regular session.

Before the voting, San Nicolas complained that Tinian is being penalized with a $2.7-million budget cut and is unfair when other offices will get no cuts under the administration’s proposal and one office will actually get 100% of its budget request.

“Right now, it’s kind of hard because something is not right. And because of that, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully, my colleagues, will not vote for the passage of this budget [bill],” he said.

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee and is the author of the budget bill, said this budget is very tough as there are no funds that they can move around.

“However, we did try to fund everything. We wish that we could fund the island of Tinian more, but we had to look at different priorities and address it accordingly,” he said.

Yumul said this is just the first step in the budget process as it is still going to the Senate.

“I’m sure the second senatorial district is way more in it now. And we should be patient,” he said.

Yumul then offered a substitute as he stated there were errors found and additional provisions were requested by the committee.

Senate amends House concurrent resolution

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The full Senate agreed yesterday to amend the House concurrent resolution that approves the expected revenues and resources of the CNMI in fiscal year 2024 by reducing the administration’s anticipated revenue from $172.5 million to $163 million.

The Senate’s amendment decreased the total earmarks from $57,157,358 in the House’s version to $48,008,048. This then brings to $115,407,265 the net local revenue and resources available for appropriations, which is the same amount in the House’s version.

All seven senators voted “yes” to the amendment and passed House Concurrent Resolution 23-2, in the form of Senate Substitute 1.

Sens. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) and Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) were absent but excused from the regular session, which was held at the Rota Mayor’s Office conference room.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

LAPDOGS

From page 1

“propensity for anti-white racism.”

“This is unbecoming a CNMI senator, particularly one so wet behind the ears as is Dennis, who is supposed to fairly and equally treat all of his Rota constituents, including those of us who seek to alter his self-interested political/familial status quo to alleviate Rota’s economic hardships and who, like me, happen to possess white skin pigmentation,” said Jorgensen in response to *Saipan Tribune*’s request for comments about Mendiola’s recent statements opposing the lawyer’s nomination.

Citing a petition with 90 signatures and five letters from Rota residents who strongly oppose Jorgensen’s appointment, Mendiola requested the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee to thoroughly examine the concerns raised in the petition.

“Prioritizing the well-being and goals of the community of Rota is of the utmost importance when it comes to the governance of the [CPA],” Mendiola told committee chair Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) in his July 21, 2023 letter.

The EAGI Committee held a confirmation hearing on Jorgensen’s appointment last July 26. The Senate has yet to confirm the appointment.

Jorgensen described Mendiola’s letter as “a dubious excuse,” as Mendiola had full and firsthand opportunity to raise before the Senate EAGI committee any objections he may have to his nomination. Instead, he said, Mendiola forfeited that right, and his fiduciary commitments to Rota community, by abruptly resigning as Rota’s representative on the Senate’s EAGI and Judiciary, Government and Law Committees—just days before the EAGI Committee heard and considered testimony on Jorgensen’s nomination.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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Comments sought on access to healthcare for CNMI inmates

The Northern Mariana Islands Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold its first in-person briefing on Friday, Sept. 1, 2023), at the Northern Marianas College, Pod Y-10, from 9am to 5pm. Click https://fb.me/e/18x2Lwt7d for more information.

The purpose of this meeting is to collect testimony from various stakeholders and the public on the committee's selected project topic, "Access to Adequate Health Care for Incarcerated Individuals Within the Northern Mariana Islands' Justice System." The testimony received will help inform the committee when drafting the findings and recommendations in their report, which will be submitted to the commission.

All advisory committee meetings are open to the public. Members of the public are encouraged to participate and will be invited to speak during an open comment period. Members of the public may also submit written comment for the Northern Mariana Islands Advisory Committee to consider in its discussion of potential civil rights topics and should submit those within 30 days of the briefing. Individuals requiring additional accommodations should contact us at least 10 business days prior to the meeting to make the request. Call (434) 515-2395 or email kfajota@usccr.gov. ***(PR)***

OSHA back to work safety enforcement in Guam

DEDEDO, Guam—The U.S. Department of Labor announced Wednesday that its Occupational Safety and Health Administration has returned to normal enforcement operations throughout Guam in the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar.

"OSHA is now able to resume regular enforcement operations in Guam," said OSHA's regional administrator James Wulff in San Francisco. "We urge companies working in areas where the effects of Typhoon Mawar hit hardest to protect workers from hazardous conditions and follow safe work practices."

In the typhoon's aftermath, OSHA provided specialized compliance assistance and outreach and ceased programmed enforcement inspections in areas struck by the storm. The agency sent workplace safety and health experts to these areas to identify and eliminate workplace hazards and help employers and workers avoid injuries during recovery operations. OSHA focused on preventing harm related to heat illness, fall, struck-by, crushing and electrical hazards, and reducing the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning for those using temporary electrical generators.

Employers and employees in Guam may call OSHA's toll-free hotline at 800-321-OSHA (6742), the Honolulu Area Office at 808-541-2680, or go to the OSHA Hurricane Preparedness and Response website for further assistance. Additionally, OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program offers no-cost and confidential occupational safety and health services to small and medium-sized businesses and employers can contact the Guam Onsite Consultation Program at 671-300-4618 or the CNMI OSHA Onsite Consultation Program at 670-287-7531 to schedule a visit. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Kang Corporation

POSITION: Procurement Specialist

NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 1

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Buy merchandise, equipment, spare parts, or commodities for resale to consumers at the wholesale or retail level, including both durable and nondurable goods; Evaluate and negotiate contracts with vendors; Track inventory and restocks of merchandise, equipment, spare parts, or commodities; Stay up-to-date on industry trends and new products; Compare available items or materials with industry trends to determine appropriate pricing; Research and find suppliers that produce quality items within the business' budget; Gather and prepare documents, like quotes, proposals, and purchase terms and conditions from suppliers for management review; Act as the supplier's main points of contact and will answer any questions or address concerns the supplier has; Analyze past buying trends, sales records, price, and quality of merchandise to determine value and yield; Select, order, and authorize payment for merchandise according to contractual agreements; May conduct meetings with sales personnel and introduce new products; May negotiate contracts; Coordinate route movement of incoming and outgoing freight cargo; Coordinate import and export operations of the company while following all legal requirements and regulations related to the import and export of goods, materials, or products from one country to another.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, International Trade Studies, or a related field.

EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an International Trader or Sales Manager or related field.

OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS OR REQUIREMENTS: Must have good communication skills; Must have the ability to manage multiple projects or undertakings at one time; Must have skills in effectively negotiating vendor contracts; and Must have strong problem-solving skills.

JOB SITE: Amara Pi, Pale Arnold Road, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: If interested, please submit or mail application and comprehensive resume, with supporting credentials to: KANG HEE KIM, President, KANG CORPORATION

Office Address: Amara Pi, Pale Arnold Road, Saipan,
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 503053, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: kangparts@hotmail.com
Telephone Number: Tel. 1 (670) 235-9369

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: **Massage Therapist**
Hours: Full time
Job Available: I October 2023
POSITION SUMMARY:
Perform therapeutic massages of soft tissues and joints. May assist in the assessment of range of motion and muscle strength, or propose client therapy plans.
Qualifications:
High School/GED graduate with at least one year of massage therapy experience;
Company: Tang Investments, Inc. dba Healing Stone Yu Yu Spa
Location: Holiday Saipan Hotel, Puti Tainobu Avenue, Garapan
Note: Background check may be required prior to employment. Only US applicants will be considered.

Job Title: **General Manager**
Hours: Full time
Job Available: I October 2023
POSITION SUMMARY:
Manage the daily operations of the Healing Stone Yu Yu Spa. Supervise Massage Therapists and cleaning and administrativestaff. May assist in performing therapeutic massages as necessary.
Qualifications:
High School/GED graduate with at least two years of massage therapy experience; must have management, communication, team work, problem solving, organizational, decision-making, planning and time management skills.
Company: Tang Investments, Inc. dba Healing Stone Yu Yu Spa
Location: Holiday Saipan Hotel, Puti Tainobu Avenue, Garapan
Note: Background check may be required prior to employment. Only US applicants will be considered.

Please deliver a complete and detailed resume to the Healing Stone Yu Yu Spa at Holiday Saipan Hotel, Puti Tainobu Avenue, Garapan or by mail to Tang Investments, Inc. at PMB 3058 Box 10002 Saipan, MP 96950, or by e-mail to tanginvestmentsinc@gmail.com.

Robert Tenorio Torres - F0197
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 500730
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA, and PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF CHRIST through its representative, Pastor Clariza S. Ilarde, Successor in Interest, Defendants.	]	**Civil Action No. 21-0169** **[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING DEFAULT JUDGMENT**

This matter came before the Court on July 31, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. for a hearing on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above caption matter. Robert T. Torres, Esq. appeared on behalf of Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT). Defendants Edwin B. Tudela and Patricia A. Tudela were served with the Notice of Hearing on the Motion for Default Judgment through Saipan Tribune newspapers. Defendant Pentecostal Church of Christ through its representative, Pastor Clariza S. Ilarde, Successor in Interest, were e-served with the Motion and its attachments along with the Notice of Hearing on the Motion through their counsel of record, Attorney Joey Patrick San Nicolas. Defendants Edwin and Patricia Tudela did not appear to attend the hearing.

Based on the representation of Plaintiff's counsel and the files and records of this case, Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment is hereby **GRANTED**, and the Court enters Judgment against the Defendants **Mr. and Mrs. Tudela** as follows:

1. Loan number: MPLT-014 Judgment shall be entered against Defendants Edwin and Patricia Tudela and in favor of Plaintiff for the outstanding balance of the Note secured by Lot 002 F 55 (formerly Block 13 Lot 11), located in San Jose, Saipan, inclusive of the attorney's fees and costs calculation as of May 4, 2023, when filing the Motion. The breakdown as follows:

a) Principal amount as of 5/04/2023	$19,351.69[1]/
b) Pre-Judgment Int at 2.00% as of 5/04/2023	$ 2,042.68
c) Late Fees as of 5/04/2023	$1,010.32
d) Unpaid Late Charges	$96.88
e) Unpaid Insurance	$670.13
f) For Court Costs	$225.00
g) Attorney's fees/costs approved for the Motion	$9,119.08
TOTAL JUDGMENT	**$32,515.78**

2. That post-judgment interest shall accrue on the judgment amount and/or any unpaid balance at the rate of 3% per annum from the Judgment Order date until the account is fully satisfied.
3. Pursuant to 2 CMC §4537(d), Defendants Mr. And Mrs. Tudela have three (3) months from the date of this Order to satisfy in full the foregoing judgment.
4. Failure to do so within a three-month period shall entitle Plaintiff to seek an order from this Court that Defendants' interest on the mortgaged property shall be sold in accordance with 2 CMC § 4537 (e).
5. That Plaintiff shall be entitled to additional attorney's fees and costs incurred from May 5, 2023, through the foreclosure proceeding if the judgment is not satisfied.

SO ORDERED on this 7th day of August 2023.

/s/ _____
Kenneth T. Govendo, Associate Judge

[1] Defendants retains the right to cure the default under 2 CMC § 4536 (a) which states the following:

"Whenever there has been a failure by the mortgagor(s) to pay obligations in accordance with the terms of the mortgage, including circumstances where all or a portion of the principal sum secured by the mortgage has, prior to the fixed maturity date become due or been declared due by reason of the mortgagor's default, the mortgagor or his or her successor in interest in the mortgaged property or any part thereof, or any other person having a subordinate lien or encumbrance in it may at any time prior to the foreclosure sale, pay to the mortgagee or successor in interest, the entire amount then due under the terms of the mortgage other than such portion of principal as would not then bedue had no default occurred, and reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

5.7-magnitude quake west of Guam

An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.7 occurred about 24 miles west of Guam at 7:21pm last Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023. Based on all available data, there was no tsunami threat to Guam, Rota, Tinian, or Saipan from this earthquake. Some areas may have experienced shaking. ***(PR)***

Summer hours at JKPL

Effective June 6, 2023 to Aug. 26, 2023, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will have temporary summer library hours. JKPL's revised hours of operation are as follows: Open Tuesday to Thursday 9am to 5pm, Friday 9am to 6pm, and Saturday 10am to 4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, austerity Saturdays*, and holidays. *Closed for JKPL austerity on the following Saturdays: Aug. 19, Sept. 2, Sept. 16, and Sept. 30, 2023. ***(PR)***

PSS EIP ICC meeting set

The CNMI Public School System's Early Intervention Program's Interagency Coordinating Council will have a meeting on Thursday, Aug. 17, from 9am to 11am via Zoom. Contact 664-4841 for the meeting link if one has not been emailed to you. ***(PR)***

Register now for the ICC

The Division of Coastal and Resources Management is now accepting registrations for the 2023 International Coastal Cleanup, which will take place this year on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023! Form your crew, register at https://forms.gle/zQGT-2BQKksF7evPg6 and participate in the cleanup. Cleanup supplies, trash hauling, and disposal will be provided by the Bureau of Coastal and Environmental Quality. ***(PR)***

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COOLER BOX 45QT
NOW! $39.95 WAS: $149.95

COOLER BOX 65QT
NOW! $56.95 WAS: $214.95

COOLER BOX 115QT
NOW! $89.95 WAS: $339.95

WFS - FOLDING MOON CHAIR
NOW! $32.95 WAS: $123.95

ORECK XL COMMERCIAL UPRIGHT VACUUM 2100RHS
NOW! $119.95 WAS: $439.95

INSTAHIBIT 10X15FT POP UP CANOPY COMML INSTANT TEN
NOW! $98.95 WAS: $375.95

INSTAHIBIT 10X20FT POP UP CANOPY COMML INSTANT TENT
NOW! $129.95 WAS: $495.95

TRINITY BLACK ANTHRACITE 5-TIER WIRE SHELVE 48WX72
NOW! $52.95 WAS: $199.95

EMERSON WINDOW AC 5K BTU
NOW! $76.95 WAS: $289.95

SAINTEVE 3 INFLATABLE BOAT (C3012-3)
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Back TO SCHOOL SALE

PROMO FROM: August 11 - August 17, 2023

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RED ONION
NOW! $1.99/LB WAS: $2.99

PORK BUTT B-LESS STEAK
NOW! $3.49/LB WAS: $4.29

CHICKEN BREAST BONELESS 8OZ
NOW! $7.89/LB WAS: $10.69

BAR-S SLICED BACON 16OZ
NOW! $7.99 WAS: $9.99

EGGS LARGE CARTON
NOW! $3.99/DZ WAS: $7.99

RED APPLE DELICIOUS 3LB
NOW! $5.49/BAG WAS: $8.49

BAR-S BUN LENGTH FRANKS 16OZ
NOW! $2.99 WAS: $3.49

PILGRIM'S CRISPY CHICKEN BREAST BITES 24OZ
NOW! $10.99 WAS: $12.79

POPTARTS UNFROSTED BROWN SUGAR CINNAMON 13.5OZ
NOW! $4.79 WAS: $5.49

WILD MIKE'S SUPREME PIZZA 14" 38.8OZ
NOW! $8.49 WAS: $9.99

BAR-S BEEF JUMBO FRANKS 16OZ
NOW! $6.99 WAS: $8.89

KRAFT DEI DELUXE AMERICAN CHEESE 12OZ
NOW! $6.99 WAS: $8.19

MANGO
NOW! $2.49/LB WAS: $3.79

ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY PIZZA CRUST 16OZ
NOW! $5.99 WAS: $6.99

PILSBURY CINNAMON SWEET ROLLS 12.4OZ
NOW! $4.99 WAS: $5.69

RED CABBAGE
NOW! $2.49/LB WAS: $3.59

PIZZA LOGS PEPPERONI & CHEESE 22.7OZ
NOW! $11.99 WAS: $13.99

LAND O LAKES WHIPPED SALTED BUTTER 8OZ
NOW! $3.99 WAS: $4.69

RED POTATO
NOW! $1.79/LB WAS: $1.99

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ESGR treats NMI employers, service members to lunch

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

To spread further information on the rights of military service members in the workforce, the Guam and CNMI Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve under the U.S. Department of Defense held what it calls "Lunch with the Boss," which brought together employers of military service members last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

The lunch drew dozens of Saipan employers who have military service members working for them, and was one of ESGR's outreaches to employers, informing them of laws pertaining to them, particularly the 1994 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, or USERRA, and the rights they and their service member staff have. Employers also learned how ESGR can serve or help them.

The luncheon was also attended by local dignitaries from the Legislature and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang. Employers of service member were also recognized and thanked for what they do.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Dozens of employers of service member gather at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan last Tuesday for the Guam-CNMI ESGR's "Lunch with the Boss."

Guam-CNMI ESGR state chair Renie Llaneta said that ESGR recognizes that service member employees who have to leave for training sometime create conflicts within a company and that's where the ESGR can help.

"Service members have to continuously go out there and train and be prepared to support and defend the Constitution, the nation, and our island. The service members are required to do training locally and sometimes conflicts arise. Of course, when you are an employer, and you need folks to do what your company is doing, sometimes conflicts arise because they have to leave and do their training," he said.

It is therefore important for employers to understand the laws and their rights but also the rights of service members, he said. In conflicts, ESGR can help mediate and, through outreaches, continue to provide information needed for both service members and employers.

Llaneta also shared that, after nearly 12 years at ESGR, three of which he spent as state chair, he will be relinquishing his chairmanship in two months to the first-ever female state chair.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

ABM Auto Repair Shop

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this Zoning Enforcement Notice of Violation. ABM Auto Repair Shop is appealing Notice of Violation No. 2019-4835 for violating Article 12. Nonconformities and Public Nuisances Section 1203 Nonconforming Uses (b) Enlargement or Expansion provisions of the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013. The use is classified as "Vehicle Repair-General" Use. This use is a Nonconforming Use in the area. The site is located on Lot No. E.A. 368 in the village of Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: August 25, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, Aug. 24, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

American Xiong's Corporation dba Angel Market

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. American Xiong's Corporation dba Angel Market is proposing amend their Conditional Use Permit File No. 2020-3847 to occupy an area measuring 58'.4" (W) x 33' (L) x 14' (H) for its "Flower or Floral Shop" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 002 G 16 in the village of Kagman. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: August 25, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, Aug. 24, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB23-OGM-42300092

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"KOBLERVILLE CHILDREN'S INCLUSIVE PARK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. VIA EMAIL AT epi.cabrera@gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Public warned of high surf and rip currents

The public is being warned that a high surf advisory remains in effect until 5pm Saturday and that there is a high risk of rip currents through Saturday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet and dangerous rip currents are present in south and west facing reefs of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

These will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

A large monsoon swell is producing hazardous surf conditions along with a high risk of rip currents to south and west facing reefs.

Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions.

The public is advised to stay out of the waters along south and west facing reefs. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

3rd Beef, Beer, & Bands Festival this weekend

The island of Tinian is gearing up to welcome visitors and tourists alike to the much-anticipated 3rd Annual Beef, Beer, & Bands, or BBB, Festival. This vibrant three-day event will take place from Aug. 11 to 13, 2023, at the Tinian Fiesta Grounds. The festival promises a weekend of culinary delights, thrilling competitions, live entertainment, and a celebration of Tinian's local beef and cattle industry.

Tinian is renowned for its local grass-fed beef and cattle industry—much like its famous hot peppers, locally known as "donne sali." The BBB Festival offers attendees the opportunity to savor the island's delectable beef through an array of vendors serving up traditional dishes, mouthwatering entrees, and a variety of local cuisines. There will be a beef kelaguen competition and booth competition.

Adding to the excitement, the festival will host the highly anticipated 2nd Annual Beer Olympics, where contestants will compete in a series of entertaining challenges to win fantastic prizes. Music enthusiasts are in for a treat as well, with electrifying live performances from bands and talent from around the region. The vibrant sounds of music will fill the air, creating a captivating ambiance that perfectly complements the festivities.

Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan expresses his enthusiasm for this annual event and its potential to contribute to the island's economic growth. He hopes to see this industry continue to flourish and explore innovative ways to further boost it, ultimately propelling Tinian's economy to new heights.

The 3rd Annual Beef, Beer, & Bands Festival invites residents, visitors, and tourists to join in the excitement and partake in the array of engaging activities planned for this weekend. From savoring mouthwatering beef delicacies to cheering on the competitors at the Beer Olympics and swaying to the rhythm of live music performances, the festival promises an unforgettable experience that showcases the best of what Tinian has to offer. ***(PR)***

Responders suspend search for missing snorkeler in Guam

By SARA MUIR
U.S. Coast Guard Forces
MICRONESIA/SECTOR GUAM

SANTA RITA, Guam—Responders suspended their active search for a missing 50-year-old male snorkeler off Tanguisson Beach on the west side of Guam on Aug. 9, 2023, at sunset.

The snorkeler remains missing.

Involved in the official search were:

- Guam Fire Department
- Guam Police Department
- U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 (HSC-25)
- Guam National Guard
- USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140)
- U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor
- U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam Joint Rescue Sub-Center

"On behalf of our team, I extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of the missing snorkeler. In our extensive efforts to locate the missing man, we conducted 10 separate searches over 68 hours, covering an area of 368 square nautical miles," said Cmdr. Greg Sickels, the search and rescue mission coordinator for this case. "This task would not have been possible without the dedicated collaboration of our partners. Our shared efforts reflect the core value of working together to achieve a common goal—the safety and well-being of our community."

The initial distress call for two swimmers came to 911 dispatchers from eyewitnesses on the beach at 4:24pm on Aug.6. One swimmer returned to shore.

Watchstanders immediately coordinated with Guam Fire Department personnel and HSC-25, also directing the launch of a 45-foot Response Boat-Medium Station Apra Harbor. A joint incident command post was established on the beach nearby. The team also issued an urgent marine information broadcast notice to mariners advising anyone in the area to keep a sharp lookout and report any sightings to responders.

Responders have since found snorkel gear consistent with what the missing man was described as having used. The U.S. Coast Guard also activated a datum buoy, providing current feedback integrated into the search planning.

In collaboration with Guam Fire and Rescue, U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron-25, and other partners, responders deployed boats, watercraft, a helicopter, and drones to cover every angle. Light winds and showers were present, with seas at 6-10 feet subsiding throughout the search. A Guam National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter crew participated in searches Monday and Tuesday. The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Oliver Henry joined the search effort Monday.

Forecasters expect a weather disturbance called "Invest 94W" to bring gusty winds and heavy rain to Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands through the weekend, creating potentially hazardous conditions for water users. In light of these conditions, the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam Joint Rescue Sub-Center urges all mariners, swimmers, surfers, and water enthusiasts to exercise extreme caution.

While responders suspended the active search, anyone with any information should call the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam Joint Rescue Sub-Center at +1 671-355-4824.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARRIVAL TERMINAL RESTROOM DRAINAGE REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Arrival Terminal Restroom Drainage Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-001-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri LLagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 1, 2023 CHST.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 (CHST).** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: August 8, 2023

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
Tel. No. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of August 11, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Seahorse, Inc. Saipan dba Seahorse Tour	5/30/2023 SLR-2023-035	Commercial Banana Boat & Parasailing (Towed Flotation),& Water Jet Craft Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 7/28/2023
2. Taotao Marianas, Inc.	5/30/2023 SLR-2023-036	Commercial Banana Boat & Parasailing (Towed Flotation) & Water Jet Craft Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 7/28/2023
3. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boyz II Marine	5/30/2023 SLR-2023-043	Commercial Water Jet Craft & Jetboard Operations, Helmet Diving & Kayaking Activities	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 6/28/2023
4. Akhil Chandra Mollick dba Ichiban Marine Sports	5/30/2023 Revised SLR-2023-066 (Formerly SLR-2021-049-R3)	Commercial Water Jet Craft & Parasailing Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 7/28/2023
5. Aquatic Marine Co., Inc. dba Aquatic Marine Sports	5/31/2023 SLR-2023-048	Commercial Banana Boat & Parasailing (Towed Floatation), Water Jet Craft Operations & Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 8/2/2023 Approved* 8/4/2023
6. Island Marine Sports, Inc.	6/7/2023 SLR-2023-055	Commercial Parasailing Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 7/31/2023
7. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	6/15/2023 TMS-2022-035-A1	Construction of Two Additional Dormitories & One Recreational Building Project	San Jose, Tinian	Major Siting	Board Meeting 8/10/2023
8. U.S.A. Fanter Corporation, Ltd.	07/21/2023 SPI-2023-079	Staging & Stockpiling	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
9. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	07/21/2023 SSm-2023-080	Tanapag Sewer Mains & Manhole Replacement & Rehabilitation	Tanapag, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 7/31/2023
10. Mariana Global Inc.	07/25/2023 SSLRm-2023-081	Transfer of Interest (Managaha Concession)	Managaha Island	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	VOID*
11. Kyung Lee	07/26/2023 SS-2023-083	Construction of Concrete Pavilion/Cabana Structure	Laolao, Saipan	Shoreline	Certified Complete* 8/2/2023 Approved* 8/3/2023
12. Mariana Global Inc.	07/26/2023 SSLRm-2023-084	Renovation of Managaha Concession Facility	Managaha Island	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 7/27/2023 Approved* 8/3/2023
13. CNMI United Investment Corporation, Inc.	08/04/2023 SMS-2023-085	Retaining Wall and Shoreline Revetment Project	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Application Under Review*
14. Tinian Harui Real Estate Co., LLC	8/8/2023 TMS-2023-086	Xingsha Hotel	San Jose, Tinian	Major Siting	Application Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

We all need a break from tipping fatigue

It's Restaurant Week in Dallas/Fort Worth, an annual event in which participating restaurants donate some of their proceeds to local charities.

It's a worthy cause that for 26 years has netted its beneficiaries more than $12 million.

Unfortunately, this year's campaign comes at a time when most of us are increasingly confused, annoyed and even downright fed up with what's become the worst part of eating out: tipping.

There seems to be no escaping it. Not at the take-out counter. Not in the drive-through line. Not even at our front doors. Tipping fatigue is everywhere and has become a big pain in the neck for restaurant customers.

The industry is wrong to pay workers so little that it depends on its hungry and thirsty patrons to supplement their incomes. A recent study by consumer finance company Bankrate captures the breadth of our frustration.

Two-thirds of Americans said they have an overall negative view of tipping, according to the survey. And 41% said they thought restaurants should pay workers more rather than making them rely on tips.

Nearly a third said they were put off by being shown tip screens with pre-entered amounts, and 30% said that tipping has gotten "out of control."

It used to seem so easy. Restaurant tips were reserved for servers who waited on you at a table and, unless they were bad, received standard 15% gratuity for their effort. If they went the extra mile, they got 18%, maybe more.

Now, not only has the standard crept up to 20%, but we're asked to tip an equal percentage for counter service or to that worker who stands in the drive-through line with a tablet taking orders.

It's become almost a moral dilemma and an impossible value judgment. How many steps did that person have to take to walk from here to there? Did I have to wait long? Did I get service with a smile?

Unfortunately, our generalized tipping fatigue seems to be backfiring on waitstaff at sit-down restaurants, who seem most deserving of our generosity. According to the Bankrate study, only 65% of U.S. adults said they regularly tip when dining in; that's down from 73% last year and 77% in 2019.

Part of the problem, of course, is state law. In Texas, the minimum wage for tipped workers is just $2.13 an hour. That's abysmally low. No wonder we're being asked to open our wallets so much.

We applaud the many local restaurants participating in Restaurant Week and encourage eating out in support of this year's beneficiaries. And when you're asked to come up with that tip, well, we sympathize.

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Judge ©2023 KING FEATURES
NEWS
NEWS
"NOW HERE'S OUR WEEKEND WEATHERMAN TO TELL US WHAT TO EXPECT ONCE CLIMATE CHANGE MELTS ALL THE GLACIERS."

Finding a path to healthy conflict

By SOLOMON D. STEVENS
Tribune News Service

Solomon D. Stevens is the author of Religion, Politics, and the Law *(co-authored with Peter Schotten) and* Challenges to Peace in the Middle East. *He wrote this for InsideSources.com.*

Spencer Cox, the new chairman of the National Governors Association, is promoting the idea of "healthy conflict." The Utah governor has become concerned about the growing problem of toxic arguments in society. As the Washington Post reports, Cox wants people to learn how to "disagree better."

We should all try to think of ways we can join him in his quest because this is not just a political issue; it is a problem that permeates our society. Almost any disagreement these days escalates into an angry confrontation. We are better than that. Our disagreements are genuine, but the way we disagree can change.

We have to start somewhere. I recommend that we begin by banishing all ad hominem arguments. What are these? Ad hominem is a Latin phrase that means "to the person." I'm sure you have seen this kind of arguing. It is all around us. What it describes is an argument where instead of actually addressing what someone has said, we insult the person. We call that person's character into question. It is classified as one of the most basic logical fallacies.

Consider these examples. First, a liberal defends the use of a book in schools. Rather than offer a critique of the book, the person disagreeing with them says, "Only a pedophile would defend a book like that." This is an ad hominem attack.

You can see where this goes. The liberal is offended and feels that they have to answer the charge of pedophilia. The real issue of the book is left behind as tempers flare. What started as a legitimate disagreement about what is appropriate in the schools has become a back-and-forth personal brawl.

Alternatively, a conservative attacks the use of a book in schools, and the person disagreeing says, "Only a fascist would attack a book like that." An ad hominem insult from the opposite direction. Again, a personal attack. The question of the book is left in the dust as the person responds, "I am not a fascist."

And so it goes.

Or reflect on the way in which too many people respond to judicial decisions. Liberals often complain about decisions on gun control by condemning the judges who made the decision. "What can you expect from a right-wing judge?" Or, "This judge has been secretly bought by right-wing billionaires."

On the other hand, we see the same ad hominem attacks come from conservatives. "This judge made a liberal decision on gun control because he's an Obama appointee." Or, "This judge has been secretly bought by left-wing billionaires."

When ad hominem attacks take place, everyone loses. We forget the real issues, which are worth exploring. Because the issues are made intensely personal when these attacks happen, they promote anger, not understanding. They increase suspicions and divisions between people. Most important, we fail to learn from one another, to expand our appreciation of the nuances present in complex issues. Our disagreements today are serious enough without adding personal attacks to the equation.

How can we avoid ad hominem arguments? When we hear things with which we disagree, instead of descending into the personal, we need to explore the problem. If there is a dispute about whether a book should be taught in schools, then ask: What does the book actually say? That would involve reading the book. And once you learn what it says, explore why that is either good or bad for young people. If you find the book disturbing, explain why. If you think the book is good, explain why. The same would be true for judicial decisions. Do you actually know what the judge in the case said? Have you actually read the decision? And if you have, why is that either good or bad?

We need to learn how to explore the why rather than the who.

Joining Governor Cox's campaign for healthy disagreement is not naive. He is not asking everyone to join hands and sing Kumbaya. Our country is deeply divided, and he is not suggesting that we all agree with one another. But instead of resorting to personal attacks, we can all benefit by focusing on the argument itself.

The only problem with this is that we might open ourselves up to the possibility that we are all wrong sometimes. We all have to learn from those with whom we disagree. But do we have the strength to risk being wrong? That is the question.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

While a Trump-Biden contest is possible, leave room for the unexpected

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. *Readers may write to him via email at carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

The recent episode in which 81-year-old Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell froze in mid-sentence, unable to complete his thoughts, is inspiring new discussions about President Joe Biden's decision to seek re-election at a similar age.

In essence, it's a reminder that Biden and the entire Democratic party have undertaken what amounts to a high-stakes crapshoot by committing to the 80-year-old president's unopposed renomination.

"Reluctant to retire, leaders raise a tough question: how old is too old?" asked a New York Times analysis without providing an answer.

In a Washington Post round table, eight liberal columnists agreed Biden was mentally up to running again and, on balance, should do so because he is again the likeliest -- perhaps the only -- Democrat who can beat Donald Trump.

But that justification won't ease nagging concerns about Biden, in part because of what happened when two other iconic Democrats—Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and California Sen. Dianne Feinstein—stayed too long.

By refusing to leave when a Democratic president could name her successor, Ginsberg was at least partially responsible for the court's disastrous reversal of the 1973 decision legalizing abortion rights. Feinstein is closing her historic career as a physically frail, cognitively shaky shell of herself, complicating Democratic efforts to manage the Senate and confirm liberal judges.

The potential parallels are obvious and raise concerns Biden's decision to run again may also end badly, either through some physical episode during the campaign that enables a vindictive Donald Trump's return to the presidency or with a disastrous second term.

Biden has been, on balance, a surprisingly good president. After the Afghanistan withdrawal bungle, he provided principled leadership against Vladimir Putin's unprincipled effort to seize Ukraine. Domestically, he achieved far more than most thought possible, winning enactment of consequential measures like the chips, infrastructure and climate bills whose long-term economic benefits will be felt long beyond his tenure.

In taking their 2024 risk, Democrats count on the fact that, with a strong campaign, incumbent presidents generally win re-election, especially against flawed opponents. This White House does an expert job in managing Biden's schedule and believes he can counter concerns about his age with Reaganesque humor and strong performances in visible situations like last February's State of the Union speech.

But the potential is always present for some unexpected physical event – like his recent stumble at the Air Force Academy, or worse. The episode involving McConnell is a frightening reminder of what could happen.

Besides, reelection is far more uncertain for presidents with low job approval; Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and Donald Trump all lost. Current polls show Biden's job approval in the low 40s and his general election numbers even or slightly better against Trump.

On the other hand, if Biden stepped down, the inevitable multi-candidate Democratic contest might reduce the party's chances of keeping the presidency and, more importantly, keeping Trump out.

It would be great if Biden could invoke the Nancy Pelosi precedent and smooth the succession path to someone clearly recognized as a consensus next generation leader.

But widespread doubts within and outside the Democratic Party about the presidential readiness and political viability of Vice President Kamala Harris make that impossible.

There is no way she would win the party's 2024 nomination as easily as Rep. Hakeem Jeffries was unanimously elected House Democratic leader. Indeed, there is no guarantee she would win a contested fight.

To be sure, heated primary contests sometimes produce strong tickets, like the Democrats' 1960 pairing of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, or the GOP's 1980 tandem of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

The Democrats might choose a potent, younger combination of, say, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Georgia Sen. Raphael Warnock. But it might be politically damaging to bypass Harris, the first woman and first minority vice president.

So far, there is no public sign any top Democrat will oppose Biden's renomination. But recurring press accounts of private conversations among top Democrats reveal substantial unease—with good reason.

And the first stirring of opposition has surfaced.

Rep. Dean Phillips, a business-friendly moderate from the Minneapolis suburbs, said Sunday Democrats "want not a coronation, but a competition" and warned "the consequences are going to be disastrous" without a competitive race.

The 54-year-old congressman, appearing on CBS' Face the Nation," urged "those who are well-positioned, well-prepared, of good character and competency—they know who they are – to jump in." He said he hasn't decided if he'll run if no one else does.

The underlying question is less whether the little-known congressman can mount a viable challenge than whether his initiative spurs one from a better-known Democrat. (Neither current Biden opponent Robert F. Kennedy Jr. or motivational speaker Marianne Williamson is considered a serious foe.)

The potential third-party candidacies of progressive activist Cornel West and the bipartisan "No Labels" group add further uncertainty.

In the end, barring the unexpected, Democrats will likely stick with the Biden-Harris ticket with a hope and a prayer nothing untoward happens to the president—and Trump again becomes the GOP nominee.

But the election is still 15 months away, and history tells us to expect the unexpected. Until Nov. 5, 2024, many Democrats will remain nervous.

'Oppenheimer' only makes it harder to control nuclear weapons

By WARD HAYES WILSON
Los Angeles Times

Ward Hayes Wilson is the executive director of RealistRevolt and the author of the forthcoming It Is Possible: A Future Without Nuclear Weapons.

The movie "Oppenheimer" hypes a serious issue of national survival, and in the process makes matters much, much worse. By mythologizing J. Robert Oppenheimer (and in the process ascribing god-like powers to nuclear weapons), the movie sets back efforts to control these dangerous devices.

True, people who watch the movie will emerge frightened about nuclear war. But decades of terrifying pictures of ash, rubble and burned bodies haven't, apparently, stifled governments' desire for these weapons. All nine nuclear-armed states are currently increasing their arsenals or upgrading them. Fear, in other words, hasn't worked.

Hyping the danger has the unintended consequence of hyping the weapons. If the danger is awesome, then the weapons must be, too.

Nuclear weapons have always been overhyped. All this "Now I am become Death, the Destroyer of Worlds" stuff (the phrase that Oppenheimer said came to his mind as he watched the first atomic test) is great showmanship, but it's hardly realistic.

Oppenheimer didn't become Death: His security clearance was revoked, and he was put out to pasture in Princeton. And nuclear weapons, although they are appallingly destructive, are unlikely to be the Destroyer of Worlds. There are about 800 million people living in the Southern Hemisphere, where there are no nuclear weapons and no likely targets.

The risks of playing the danger card are neatly summed up by what happens when you substitute the word "apocalypse" for "nuclear war." Apocalypse narratives are mythological stories about the end of the world. What's easy to overlook about these narratives is the way they disempower. War, catastrophe, plague or whatever brings about divine retribution is always far beyond human control. Applying apocalypse mythology to nuclear weapons takes agency and control out of our hands. Framing nuclear war as apocalypse subconsciously insists that we are powerless.

"Oppenheimer" goes all-out to reinforce the god-like power of nuclear weapons. The ear-numbing soundtrack, the explosions and flashing lights, the boiling clouds of fire—all of it is designed to overawe us with almighty power. One scene in the movie literally shows the globe slowly being engulfed in flames.

And not only does hyping the weapons make us feel hopeless, it fills the power-mad with burning desire. Do you imagine that someone like North Korea's Kim Jong Un could watch this movie and come away with any other conclusion than that nuclear weapons give him god-like power?

Which is nonsense.

Nuclear weapons are dangerous, sure, but the truth is they are too big to be practically useful. They're so big they're clumsy. You can't use them on the battlefield because if you bomb your adversary's front-line troops the explosion is so big it kills some of your own. And the radiation makes it hard to use the weapons even 20 miles behind the lines.

There's a reason no military officers came forward to angrily denounce President George H.W. Bush when he declared that the United States was unilaterally removing all but a handful of its nuclear weapons from Europe. The military had done the simulations, they'd studied the data, and they apparently concluded—just as President Eisenhower apparently did in Korea, the French did in Vietnam, and Colin Powell did in the Gulf War—that nuclear weapons are too clumsy to use in battle. Why do you think the average yield of nuclear weapons warheads in the U.S. arsenal is roughly five times smaller today than it was in the 1960s? They're smaller because practically speaking, the weapons are just too big to be useful.

Think about it: If nuclear weapons are so decisive why don't they get used more often? War is a remorselessly pragmatic business. If a weapon can help you win a war, then it likely will be used. The notion that nuclear weapons haven't been used for the better part of a century because of scruples or some sort of taboo underestimates the human capacity for brutality.

What seems far more likely is that nuclear weapons haven't been used because it's hard to find a practical use for them. If a tool stays in the drawer year after year after year, that's probably not a sign that you're reverentially holding back from using it. It's probably a sign that it has limited utility.

"Oppenheimer" breeds fatalism. It puts the weapons in charge and casts humans as walk-ons. The truth, however, is the opposite. As President Kennedy said: "No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings." We decide what happens, not the machinery of war. The more we hype the machinery, and treat weapons like gods, the less we live in reality.

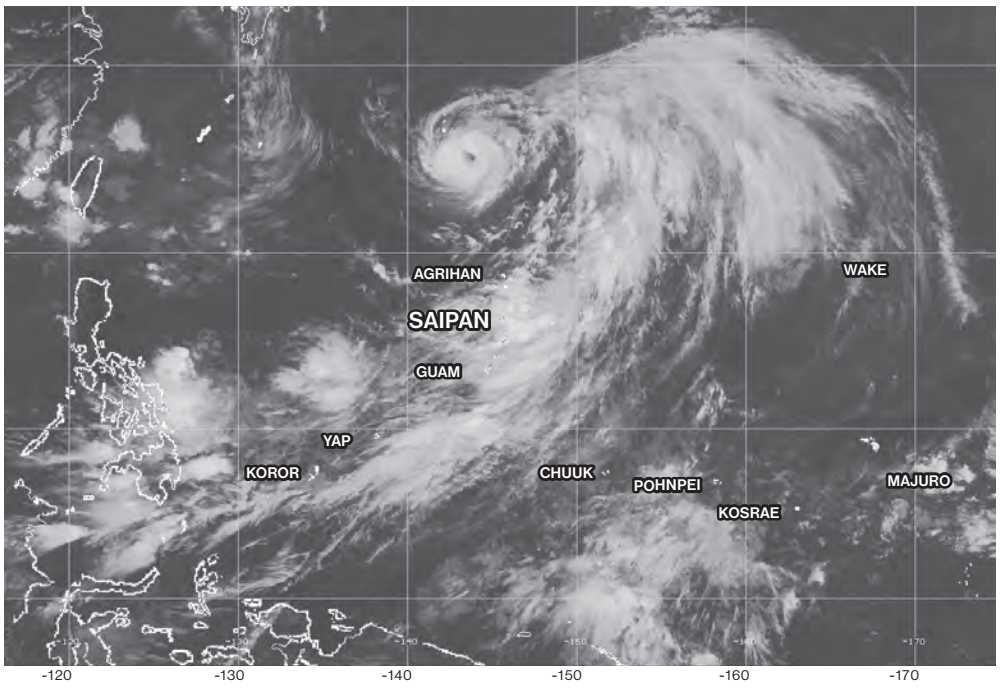
If nuclear weapons are a problem, we need to take sensible, pragmatic action. Want to watch a movie that scares you into throwing your hands in the air and admitting you're helpless? See "Oppenheimer." Want to step up and actually do something useful about the danger nuclear weapons pose? All right, then. Let's get to it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy	Showers likely. Cloudy	Showers likely. Cloudy	Showers likely. Cloudy	Showers likely. Cloudy
86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:14 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A wet weather pattern will persist across the Marianas through the coming weekend and into next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Cloudy	86° / 76°
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:41 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:19 AM	2:49 PM	-
Saturday	2:09 AM	3:43 PM	-
Sunday	3:02 AM	4:35 PM	-
Monday	3:55 AM	5:22 PM	-
Tuesday	4:48 AM	6:06 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	57° / 52°
Beijing	Showers	84° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 79°
London	Partly Cloudy	68° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	89° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	87° / 69°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	97° / 82°
Paris	Showers	73° / 52°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	99° / 72°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	92° / 74°
San Francisco	Sunny	71° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	97° / 79°
Tokyo	Showers	91° / 79°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	92° / 71°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
2:24 AM	High Tide	1.86
10:25 AM	Low Tide	0.12
6:09 PM	High Tide	1.78
10:54 PM	Low Tide	1.46

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:55AM	8:45AM	1, 5
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	4, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

OIA awards Guam $550K more to support typhoon recovery

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced yesterday $550,000 in additional assistance for recovery and response to the impacts of Typhoon Mawar that hit Guam on May 22, 2023.

"In response to the governor's request, we are pleased to provide this additional support for Guam following President Biden's emergency declaration and thank all of our federal partners for their continued support for supplemental territorial and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Typhoon Mawar," said assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. "We anticipate that this grant to Guam will provide stability and continuity of services in this current time of need and in the future."

The announcement comes after Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Cantor traveled to Guam to meet with Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio to discuss the island's ongoing recovery.

The funding awards announced yesterday will meet the following needs:

■ $420,000 to purchase a 350 kVA emergency generator and a 10,000-gallon water tank and pump system for the non-congregate shelter in Anigua, Guam.

■ $130,000 to procure a security system that includes cameras and alarms for warehouse and storage facilities used to store materials needed to sufficiently respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and other natural and man-made disasters. Funds will also be used to procure a forklift to manage handling and organizing supplies and materials within the shelter.

Similar support in response to Typhoon Mawar was provided to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and announced by Haaland during a recent visit to the territories. ***(DOI)***

Register for SCC's Q3 PD training: EQ

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce announced Wednesday that it is now accepting registrations for its 3rd Quarter Professional Development Training: Emotional Intelligence, led by Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions.

The training sessions are scheduled to take place on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2023, from 9am to 12pm, at the Island Training Solutions training room on the sixth floor, Suite 604, of the Marianas Business Plaza.

This training will help improve employee retention and morale by using Emotional Intelligence skills. The training will touch-base on a variety of subjects such as:

■ understanding how your work and actions affect other people including coworkers and customers;

■ understand how people's words and actions affect you;

■ be more empathetic to others;

■ become a self-motivator and an example to others;

■ improve your professional and social awareness.

The registration fee is set at $50 for Chamber members and $60 for future Chamber members.

The Chamber is also offering a special discount of $5 per individual when enrolling three or more participants. Interested individuals are encouraged to sign up today by visiting the SCC website at www.saipanchamber.com/training-opportunities/. Alternatively, interested participants can contact the Chamber at (670) 234-7150 or email contactus@saipanchamber.org for further assistance.

The SCC strongly encourages businesses across all sectors to take advantage of this professional development training. Investing in staff development is key to retaining existing customers and attracting new ones, ultimately driving business growth and success.

Payments for the training can be made in cash, by check, or with major debit/credit cards. Payment options include in-person payments at the SCC's office on the second floor, Suite 201-A, of the Marianas Business Plaza. Office hours are from Monday to Friday, 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm. Please note that the SCC's office is closed on weekends. ***(PR)***

Biden increases federal cost share for Guam typhoon recovery efforts

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator Deanne Criswell announced yesterday that President Joe Biden made additional disaster assistance available to the territory of Guam to supplement recovery efforts in the areas affected by Typhoon Mawar from May 22-29, 2023.

The President authorized the federal cost-share for the major disaster declaration to be increased from 75% to 90%. The major disaster declaration made federal funding available for Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance for the total eligible costs. ***(PR)***

ROBERT T. TORRES (F0197)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Defendant Lan Lan Wang

CHARITY HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Co-Counsel for Defendant Lan Lan Wang

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WON BAE SHON, Plaintiff, vs. HEE JONG CHOO, SOO WOAN JUN, YAN HUA LI, JING ZHU SUN, LAN LAN WANG, and DOES One to Five, Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0018** **SUMMONS**

TO CROSSCLAIM DEFENDANT SOO WOAN JUN:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to DEFENDANT LAN LAN WANG'S COUNTERCLAIM AGAINST WON BAE SHON AND CROSSCLAIM AGAINST SOO WOAN JUN ("the Complaint"), a copy of which is given to you herewith, within Twenty-One (21) Days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, 5960 Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 500730**, Saipan, or soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2023.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Aug. 25, 2023 | 2:00 PM
Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center
Susupe, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 08/25/2023 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption 06/29/2023 and 07/27/2023 Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments *(not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)*
6. Administrator's Report
   a. Policy Discussion on Marijuana Processor
   b. Policy Discussion on Zoning Fees (Table 300-1. Zoning Fees)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14921** – Noel M. Baitlon is proposing to utilize Two (2) Cargo (Ocean Shipping) Containers and to construct extensions for its "Multifamily or Apartment" Use measuring **56' (W) x 20' (L) x 12' (H).** This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 004 I 08 in the village of San Antonio. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14922** – JWS Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Inc. is proposing to construct One (1) Warehouse Type building and to occupy measuring **120'.2" (W) x 84'.6" (W) x 19'.8" (H)** for its "Gas Station, Light Repair-Air Conditioning and Refrigeration repair" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 036 I 03 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14923** – American Xiong's Corporation dba Angel Market is proposing amend their Conditional Use Permit File No. 2020-3847 to occupy an area measuring **58'.4" (W) x 33' (L) x 14' (H)** for its "Flower or Floral Shop" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 002 G 16 in the village of Kagman. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

4. **Zoning Enforcement Notice of Violation #2019-4835** – ABM Auto Repair Shop. To appeal Notice of Violation No. 2019-4835 for violating Article 12. **Nonconformities and Public Nuisances Section 1203 Nonconforming Uses** (b) **Enlargement or Expansion** provisions of the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013. The use is classified as "Vehicle Repair-General" Use. This use is a Nonconforming Use in the area. The site is located on Lot No. E.A. 368 in the village of Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. Executive Session

D. Old Business

1. Conditional Use Application #2020-13864 – Da Dankery is proposing to occupy the ground floor level of a preexisting Two-Story building for its "Cannabis Farm" Use measuring **49'.7" (W) x 26'.2" (L).** And to also construct One (1) detached structure measuring **16'.10" (L) x 24'.10" (W) x 15' (H)** for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 044 K 07 in the village of Dandan. This area is zoned as Rural.

2. Conditional Use Application #2020-14621 – Saipan Marijuana Farms, Inc. is proposing to occupy an area measuring **37' (W) x 57'.9" (L) x 10'.8" (H)** on the second floor of the Olibas Building for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 007 D 08 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

E. Adjournment

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
JWS Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. JWS Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Inc. is proposing to construct One (1) Warehouse Type building and to occupy measuring 120'.2" (W) x 84'.6" (W) x 19'.8" (H) for its "Gas Station, Light Repair-Air Conditioning and Refrigeration repair" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 036 I 03 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **August 25, 2023**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, Aug. 24, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Noel M. Baitlon

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Noel M. Baitlon is proposing to utilize Two (2) Cargo (Ocean Shipping) Containers and to construct extensions for its "Multifamily or Apartment" Use measuring 56' (W) x 20' (L) x 12' (H). This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 004 I 08 in the village of San Antonio. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **August 25, 2023**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, Aug. 24, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

18TH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
Tinian Jr. Sr. High School Cafeteria
Tinian Jr. Sr. High School, Tinian MP
Via Zoom (see link below)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Agenda[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. November 18, 2022 Regular Board meeting
   b. March 23, 2023 Regular Board meeting
   c. April 21, 2023 Special Board meeting
   d. May 31, 2023 Emergency Board meeting

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Reports
1. Chair's Report
2. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others
3. Committee Reports
   a. CIP
   b. FPA
   c. ISA
   d. LIA
   e. SICPP
   f. SARC

IV. Old Business

V. New Business
1. Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Regulations
2. Extension of Interim Positions:
   a. Director, Facilities Development & Management (FDM)
   b. Principal, Chacha Oceanview Middle School (COVMS)
   c. Vice Principal, Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School (FDMS)
   d. Compliance & Monitoring Program Manager, FDM
3. Head Start/Early Head Start:
   a. One Time T/TA Supplemental Grant Application-HI/OP Institute 2024
4. Consolidated Grant FY23
5. Indirect Cost (IDC) Revenue from FY22-to present
6. Wellness Leave
7. Stronger Connections Funding
8. Rota OPT Bus Facility
9. Tinian OPT Bus Facility
10. Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School Maintenance Work Station
11. Update on Hopwood Middle School
12. MRE Solar Panels Term Sheet
13. Gender Neutral Restroom Policy
14. Update on ARPA Spending Plan
15. Fiscal Cliff Discussion
16. Teacher Representative as a Voting Member
17. Changing Tinian Jr./Sr. High School to Tinian Middle School and Tinian High School
18. Certification & Licensure Matter
    a. CLO Report No. 2023-18-04
    b. CLO Report No. 2023-18-05

VI. Legal Counsel's Report

VII. Executive Session[3]
1. Personnel
2. Other matters

VIII. Miscellaneous

IX. Discussion of Agenda for next Board Meeting

X. Adjournment

[1] Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/93093793106?pwd=SXYwcVZUSGhPRUFIZElLL1hGeGZzdz09
Meeting ID: 930 9379 3106
Passcode: 343342
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From top, Hyatt's Kili Café & Terrace a la carte menu includes shrimp fried rice, bolognese, and loco moco.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Triple Star International Corporation dba Triple Star Recycling

THE POSITION: General Manager

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 1

JOB DESCRIPTION: Direct & coordinate activities of the general business of the company that concerns with production, pricing, sales, and distribution of scrap materials; Oversee day-to-day business operations of the company; Design strategy and set goals for growth of the businesses of the company: Maintain budgets and optimize expense; Set policies and processes; Ensure employees work productively and develop professionally; Oversee recruitment and training of new employees; Evaluate and improve operations and financial performance; Prepare regular reports for higher management; Ensure staff follows health and safety regulations; Provide solutions to issues (e.g., profit decline; employees' conflicts, loss of business to competitors); Prepare booking for the containers shipment of recycling materials with shipping brokers or companies; Request empty containers from logistics or shipping company; Negotiate contracts with companies that have scrap materials, such as construction firms, makers of aluminum, etc.; Manage the other recycling shop business of the company.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must be at least a High School graduate.

EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 48 months of relevant work experience in business management.

OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS OR REQUIREMENTS: Must be knowledgeable on technical issues, such as environmental regulations of other countries, such as Taiwan, China, and Korea.

JOB SITE: As Perdido, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HOW TO APPLY: If interested, please submit or mail application and comprehensive resume, with supporting credentials to:

QING ZHANG
Corporate Secretary
TRIPLE STAR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION DBA TRIPLE STAR RECYCLING

Office Address: Sta. Remedios, Lower Base, Saipan,Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 503616, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: qingzhang6134@gmail.com • Tel. No.:Telephone Number: 1 (670) 323-0362

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Homesmart Corporation dba Best Deal General Merchandise

THE POSITION: Auditing Clerk

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 1

JOB DESCRIPTION: Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete; Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records; May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers; Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information; Check figures postings and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy and proper codes; Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations; Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and procedures documents; Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must be at least a High School graduate.

EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an Auditing Clerk

OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS OR REQUIREMENTS: Must have good communication and interpersonal skills; Must have knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, and other office procedures.

JOB SITE: Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HOW TO APPLY: If interested, please submit or mail application and comprehensive resume, with supporting credentials to:

RUEL R. VILLACRUSIS
General Manager
HOMESMART CORPORATION DBA BEST DEAL GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Office Address: Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 504974, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: ruel@rnvconstruction.com • Tel. No.: Tel. 1 (670) 234-7688

Business

Hyatt's Kili Café & Terrace offers daily a la carte dining

Beginning tomorrow, Aug. 12, Kili Café & Terrace reopens to lunch goers with an a la carte menu daily from 11:30am to 2pm. The popular TGIF Light Lunch Buffet remains unchanged each Friday.

Kili, the Chamorro name for Terrace, is considered as an integral dining institution on Saipan and one of the leading venues that offer al fresco dining. Kili Café & Terrace is known to serve local and international specialties that carry a good value for money selection of menu items.

As part of the casual dining and drinking experience, the a la carte menu includes Hyatt's American Signature Burger. The certified Angus Beef ribeye leads the list of main courses that also features local favorites such as Loco Moco, Chef's Shrimp Fried Rice and many more.

Executive chef Matteo Fracalossi lined up a list of delicious pasta, including his personal recommendation, Linguine Alla Papalina which is an ode to his Italian roots. This authentic Italian pasta dish is made up of cooked ham, green peas, egg, cream and parmesan cheese.

Kili Café & Terrace always welcomes families where the menu has tailormade children favorites available.

There is always room for dessert! Hyatt proudly offers daily its original home-made cheesecake, milkshake as well as mango parfait and seasonal sliced fruits. As always, an array of hot & cold beverages is prepared a la minute.

For more information and further dining options at Hyatt Regency Saipan, visit saipan.regency.hyatt.com and click "Dining page." Reservations are always recommended and can be completed on the hotel's home page. ***(PR)***

A yearlong slowdown in US inflation may have stalled in July

WASHINGTON (AP)—Inflation in the United States likely rose in July for the first time in 12 months, driven higher by more expensive gasoline and suggesting that the fight against rising prices may prove bumpier in the months ahead.

The inflation report the government will issue Thursday is expected to show that consumer prices increased 3.3% from 12 months earlier. That would mark an uptick from a 3% year-over-year increase in June—the lowest such figure in more than two years.

On a month-to-month basis, consumer prices are thought to have risen 0.2% from June to July, the same as in the previous month, according to a survey of forecasters by the data firm FactSet.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB23-CHCC/CGC-988 CRISIS-017

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 14, 2023 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB23-CHCC/CGC-TLC-018

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 14, 2023 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Nation

Biden issues executive order restricting US investments in Chinese technology

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden signed an executive order Wednesday to block and regulate high-tech U.S.-based investments going toward China—a move the administration said was targeted but it also reflected an intensifying competition between the world's two biggest powers.

The order covers advanced computer chips, micro electronics, quantum information technologies and artificial intelligence. Senior administration officials said that the effort stemmed from national security goals rather than economic interests, and that the categories it covered were intentionally narrow in scope. The order seeks to blunt China's ability to use U.S. investments in its technology companies to upgrade its military while also preserving broader levels of trade that are vital for both nations' economies.

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce responded in a statement early Thursday that it has "serious concern" about the order and "reserves the right to take measures."

The United States and China appear to be increasingly locked in a geopolitical competition with a conflicting set of values. Biden administration officials have insisted that they have no interest in "decoupling" from China, yet the U.S. also has limited the export of advanced computer chips and kept the expanded tariffs set up by President Donald Trump. And in its response, China accused the U.S. of "using the cover of 'risk reduction' to carry out 'decoupling and chain-breaking.'" China has engaged in crackdowns on foreign companies.

Biden has suggested that China's economy is struggling and its global ambitions have been tempered as the U.S. has reenergized its alliances with Japan, South Korea, Australia and the European Union. The administration consulted with allies and industry in shaping the executive order.

"Worry about China, but don't worry about China," Biden told donors at a June fundraising event in California.

The officials previewing the order said that China has exploited U.S. investments to support the development of weapons and modernize its military. The new limits were tailored not to disrupt China's economy, but they would complement the export controls on advanced computer chips from last year that led to pushback by Chinese officials. The Treasury Department, which would monitor the investments, will announce a proposed rulemaking with definitions that would conform to the presidential order and go through a public comment process.

AP

President Joe Biden speaks at the Arcosa Wind Towers, Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, in Belen, N.M.

The goals of the order would be to have investors notify the U.S. government about certain types of transactions with China as well as to place prohibitions on some investments. Officials said the order is focused on areas such as private equity, venture capital and joint partnerships in which the investments could possibly give countries of concern such as China additional knowledge and military capabilities.

J. Philip Ludvigson, a lawyer and former Treasury official, said the order was an initial framework that could be expanded over time.

"The executive order issued today really represents the start of a conversation between the U.S. government and industry regarding the details of the ultimate screening regime," Ludvigson said. "While the executive order is limited initially to semiconductors and microelectronics, quantum information technologies, and artificial intelligence, it explicitly provides for a future broadening to other sectors."

The issue is also a bipartisan priority. In July by a vote of 91-6, the Senate added as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act requirements to monitor and limit investments in countries of concern, including China.

Yet reaction to Biden's order on Wednesday showed a desire to push harder on China. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill., said the order was an "essential step forward," but it "cannot be the final step." Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said Biden should been more aggressive, saying, "we have to stop all U.S. investment in China's critical technology and military companies — period."

Biden has called Chinese President Xi Jinping a "dictator" in the aftermath of the U.S. shooting down a spy balloon from China that floated over the United States. Taiwan's status has been a source of tension, with Biden saying that China had become coercive regarding its independence.

Indictment shows White House lawyers struggling for control as Trump fought to overturn election

WASHINGTON (AP)—A few hours after rioters laid siege to the Capitol, overpowering police in a violent attack on the seat of American democracy on Jan. 6, 2021, the White House's top lawyer, Pat Cipollone, called his boss with an urgent message.

It's time to end your objections to the 2020 election, Cipollone told Donald Trump, and allow Congress to certify Joe Biden as the next president. Trump refused.

Trump was no longer listening to his White House counsel, the elite team of attorneys who take an oath to serve the office of the president. But by all accounts, he hadn't been listening to them for some time.

The extraordinary moment —fully detailed for the first time in the latest federal indictment against Trump unsealed last week—vividly illustrates the extent to which the former president's final weeks in office were consumed by a struggle over the law, with two determined groups of attorneys fighting it out as the future of American democracy hung in the balance.

Trump's attempts to remain in power, according to the indictment and evidence compiled in congressional investigations, were firmly rejected by Cipollone and his top deputy, Pat Philbin. So Trump turned to outside allies including Rudy Giuliani, John Eastman and Kenneth Chesebro, among other legal advisers, to launch what federal prosecutors have called a "criminal scheme" to fraudulently overturn the election.

Cipollone and Philbin had been heard from before, as both testified to the House Jan. 6 committee under subpoena. But they were unable to disclose to Congress their interactions with Trump, citing the executive privilege that customarily shields their work in the White House.

Special counsel Jack Smith, who brought the indictment against Trump, faced no such barrier. A federal judge ruled the lawyers had to testify about their interactions with Trump in the chaotic weeks before the Jan. 6 insurrection.

As a result, prosecutors were able to obtain extraordinary new details that were used in the indictment of the former president. And Cipollone and Philbin seem likely to become important witnesses in Trump's upcoming trial.

Requests for comment from them were not returned.

The breakdown of the relationship between Trump and his White House counsel—a lawyer-president arrangement that dates back to Franklin D. Roosevelt — began in the weeks after the 2020 presidential election. Cipollone and Philbin at the time were providing "candid" advice to Trump that there was no evidence of fraud that could change the results of the election.

Despite this advice, Trump began to parade outside advisers into the White House for a series of long, contentious and at times nasty meetings about steps he could take to challenge the election.

In a now infamous Dec. 18, 2020 session in the Oval Office, Trump allies including Sidney Powell and Michael Flynn, the former national security adviser, proposed ordering the military to seize voting machines in crucial states Trump had lost.

Cipollone was blindsided by the meeting, having learned of it just as he was about to leave the White House for the night. He recalled in testimony to the Jan. 6 committee that Trump's advisers "forcefully" verbally attacked him and other White House lawyers when they shot down the idea of seizing voting machines.

"It was being brought to the president by people who I don't believe had his best interest in mind," Cipollone told lawmakers in June 2022. "They were doing the country and the president, both in his capacity as president and his personal capacity, a disservice."

Attorneys who have served as White House counsel said they were dumbfounded by what they read in the Trump indictment, calling the situation "unbelievable" and unlike anything they experienced in office.

ACROSS THE NATION

Biden wants to compensate NM residents sickened by radiation in '45 nuclear testing

BELEN, N.M. (AP)—President Joe Biden said Wednesday that he's open to granting assistance for people sickened by exposure to radiation during nuclear weapons testing, including in New Mexico, where the world's first atomic bomb was tested in 1945.

Biden brought up the issue while speaking Wednesday in Belen at a factory that produces wind towers. "I'm prepared to help in terms of making sure that those folks are taken care of," he said.

The state's place in American history as a testing ground has gotten more attention recently with the release of "Oppenheimer," a movie about physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer and the top-secret Manhattan Project. Biden watched the film last week while on vacation in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Democratic Sen. Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico spoke of how the first bomb was tested on soil just south of where the event was. The senator also discussed getting an amendment into the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, which gives payments to people who become ill from nuclear weapons tests or uranium mining during the Cold War. "And those families did not get the help that they deserved. They were left out of the original legislation," Lujan added. "We're fighting with everything that we have" to keep the amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Utah man suspected of threatening Biden shot and killed as FBI served warrant

PROVO, Utah (AP)—An armed Utah man accused of making violent threats against President Joe Biden was shot and killed by FBI agents hours before the president landed in the state Wednesday, authorities said. Special agents were trying to serve a warrant on the home of Craig Deleeuw Robertson in Provo, south of Salt Lake City, when the shooting happened at 6:15 a.m., the FBI said in a statement. Robertson was armed at the time of the shooting, according to two law enforcement sources who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss details of an ongoing investigation. Robertson posted online Monday that he had heard Biden was coming to Utah and he was planning to dig out a camouflage suit and begin "cleaning the dust off the M24 sniper rifle," a post that came after months of graphic online threats against several public figures, according to court documents. Robertson referred to himself as a "MAGA Trumper," a reference to former President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan, and also posted threats against top law enforcement officials overseeing court cases against Trump. Neighbors described Robertson as a frail, elderly man—his online profile put his age as 74—who walked with the aid of a hand-carved stick. Though he regularly carried guns, they said he didn't seem a threat.

Asia

Kim calls for military to sharpen war plans as rivals prepare drills

AP

In this undated photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, attends a meeting of the North Korean ruling Workers' Party's central military commission in Pyongyang, North Korea Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his military to sharpen its war plans and signed off on expanding combat operations of frontline units, state media said Thursday, as the United States and South Korea prepare for a large-scale combined military exercise.

Condemning the allies' expanding drills as invasion rehearsals, Kim has used them as a pretext to further accelerate his weapons demonstrations, which have included the testing-firings of more than 100 missiles since the start of 2022, driving tensions on the Korean Peninsula to their highest point in years.

Experts say Kim's nuclear push is aimed at forcing the United States to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power so he can eventually negotiate economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

Thursday's meeting of the North Korean ruling Workers' Party's central military commission, which Kim controls as chairman, was to discuss advancing his military's war readiness and establishing offensive countermeasure plans to deter his adversaries, which state media said were getting more blatant in their "reckless military confrontation" with the North.

After talks of boosting North Korean frontline units and stepping up war drills to incorporate new strategies and weapons, Kim signed an order to implement unspecified "important military measures," Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said.

During the meeting, Kim stressed that the military must acquire "more powerful strike means" to bolster his nuclear deterrent and make speedier deployments of those weapons to combat units. He called for the country's munitions industry to step up mass production of various weapons and systems, and for the military to actively conduct "actual war drills" to digest those systems and enhance its war-fighting capabilities, KCNA said.

Photos of the meeting published by state media showed Kim pointing to spots in a blurred map of the Korean Peninsula. The spots appeared to be the metropolitan region surrounding the South Korean capital of Seoul, where half of the country's 51 million people live, and an area around the central city of Daejeon, the location of South Korea's army headquarters.

Kim also made personnel changes during the meeting, appointing Vice Marshal Ri Yong Gil as his new chief of general staff to replace Gen. Pak Su Il, KCNA said.

When asked about Kim's comments, Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a briefing that the U.S. and South Korean intelligence authorities were closely monitoring North Korean weapons development activities and possibilities of provocations. He did not discuss it further.

Kim's comments during the meeting echoed what he said last week during a three-day tour of the country's key weapons factories, including a facility that produces launcher trucks for his intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to target the U.S. mainland, and called for significant improvements to the country's arms and war readiness.

Kim's visits also included an artillery factory that deepened outside concerns that North Korea was preparing to export artillery and other arms supplies to Russia as President Vladimir Putin reaches out to other countries for support in the war in Ukraine.

In the face of deepening confrontations with Washington and Seoul, Kim has been trying boost the visibility of his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing to break out of diplomatic isolation and insert himself into a united front against the U.S.

Kim invited Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and a Chinese ruling party officials to share center stage at a giant military parade in Pyongyang where he rolled out his most powerful missiles designed to target South Korea and the United States. Shoigu's presence at the July 27 parade came after Kim took him on a tour of a domestic arms exhibition, which demonstrated North Korea's support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine and added to suspicions the North was willing to supply arms to Russia.

During Thursday's meeting, North Korean officials also agreed to hold another military parade to mark the 75th anniversary of its government's founding. The Sept. 9 parade would be the country's third event in 2023 alone. Analysts say the North has never staged military parades more than twice in the same year.

China sends ships, fighter jets toward Taiwan in new show of force

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China sent navy ships and a large group of fighter jets toward Taiwan, continuing its military pressure on the island, Taiwan's defense ministry said Thursday.

China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its own territory and has regularly sent flights toward the island in reaction to the island's political activities. In the past year, it has also sent navy vessels as well as drones to circle the waters near the island.

Taiwan's defense ministry said the Chinese People's Liberation Army sent 33 warplanes and 6 navy vessels between 6 a.m. Wednesday to 6 a.m. Thursday. The J-10 and J-16 fighter jets flew across the midline and to the southwest of Taiwan.

The ministry said in an earlier statement Wednesday that Taiwan's military tracked five of the ships as they sailed in coordination with the flights of the fighter jets.

The ministry said it used land-based missile systems to track the aircraft, 10 of which crossed the midline of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial boundary that had been considered a buffer between the island and mainland.

In response to escalating Chinese military pressure, Taiwan has been buying weapons and fighter jets to shore up its defenses. In July, the U.S. announced a $345-million package of sales to Taiwan that will include portable air defense systems, intelligence and surveillance capabilities, firearms and missiles.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Nagasaki mayor urges world to abolish nuclear weapons

TOKYO (AP)—Nagasaki marked the 78th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of the city Wednesday with the mayor urging world powers to abolish nuclear weapons, saying nuclear deterrence also increases risks of nuclear war. Shiro Suzuki made the remark after the Group of Seven industrial powers adopted a separate document on nuclear disarmament in May that called for using nuclear weapons as deterrence. "Now is the time to show courage and make the decision to break free from dependence on nuclear deterrence," Nagasaki Mayor Shiro Suzuki said in his peace declaration Wednesday, "As long as states are dependent on nuclear deterrence, we cannot realize a world without nuclear weapons." Russia's nuclear threat has encouraged other nuclear states to accelerate their dependence on nuclear weapons or enhance capabilities, further increasing the risk of nuclear war, and that Russia is not the only one representing the risk of nuclear deterrence, Suzuki said.

Pakistan's parliament is dissolved to pave way for elections

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's president on Wednesday dissolved the National Assembly, or lower house of parliament, a first step in the countdown to a general election by mid-November. The move came as the country's top opposition leader is fighting to overturn a corruption conviction that landed him in a high-security prison over the weekend. A statement from President Arif Alvi's office said he acted on the advice of the country's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in disbanding the lawmakers as the assembly's five-year term is ending. Usually, such a step is a formality and a general election would typically have to be held within 90 days. But this year there's a twist. A delay until the spring is possible if Pakistan's election commission opts for redistricting ahead of an election, based on the results of a recent census. The uncertainty over the election date coincides with the legal and political drama surrounding Sharif's predecessor and national cricket hero, Imran Khan. The 70-year-old popular opposition leader was convicted by an Islamabad court on Saturday of concealing assets and was sentenced to three years in prison.

Rahul Gandhi condemns the Modi government over violence in Manipur

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's top opposition leader unleashed a strong condemnation Wednesday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for its failure to control bloodshed in a remote northeastern state that he said has been divided. Rahul Gandhi told Parliament that the army should have been able to stop the violence already. But despite the presence of troops in Manipur, the violence has festered for over three months. More than 150 people have died in Manipur and over 50,000 people have fled in fear since clashes erupted in early May. "The army can restore peace in a day. You are not using the army," Gandhi said, and called for the firing of the state government run by Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. The conflict was triggered by an affirmative action controversy in which Christian Kukis protested a demand by mostly Meitei Hindus for a special status that would let them buy land in the hills populated by Kukis and other tribal groups, and get a share of government jobs.

World

2 dead in a Russian attack on Ukrainian city

AP

In this photo provided by the Zaporizhzhia administration Press Office, rescuers work on the scene of a building damaged after Russian missile strikes in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023.

TALLINN, Estonia (AP)—A Russian rocket attack on Wednesday killed two people and wounded at least seven others in the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, which is near Europe's largest nuclear power plant, Ukrainian officials said.

Although regional governor Yuriy Malashko initially said three people died in the attack on a residential area, Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko later said two people died and one other person had been resuscitated.

The city lies about 50 kilometers (30 miles) northeast of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which has been occupied by Russian forces since the early weeks of the war. Shelling in the plant's surroundings have raised persistent fears of a nuclear accident.

In Russia, an explosion on the grounds of a factory that makes optical equipment for Russia's security forces north of Moscow killed one person, wounded 60 others and left at least eight people unaccounted for, officials said.

Russian officials did not provide a suspected cause of the explosion in the city of Sergiev Posad, which produced a tall plume of black smoke and added to jitters over recent nighttime drone attacks on Moscow. Earlier, officials said Russian air defenses shot down two drones aimed at the capital overnight, and they accused Ukraine of an attempted attack.

The blast occurred at a warehouse storing fireworks but was on the grounds of the Zagorsk optics manufacturing plant, said Andrei Vorobyov, the governor of the region surrounding the Russian capital. The explosion damaged 38 apartment buildings and prompted an evacuation of nearby areas, he said.

Niger's ousted president said to be running low on food

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)—Niger's deposed president is running out of food and under increasingly dire conditions two weeks after he was ousted in a military coup and put under house arrest, an adviser said Wednesday. The U.S. State Department expressed deep concern about the "deteriorating conditions" of his detention.

President Mohamed Bazoum, the West African nation's democratically elected leader, has been held at the presidential palace in Niamey with his wife and son since mutinous soldiers moved against him on July 26.

The family is living without electricity and only has rice and canned goods left to eat, the adviser said. Bazoum remains in good health for now and will never resign, according to the adviser, who wasn't authorized to discuss the sensitive situation with the media and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bazoum's political party issued a statement confirming the president's living conditions and said the family also was without running water.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Bazoum on Tuesday about recent diplomatic efforts, a statement said, and Blinken "emphasized that the safety and security of President Bazoum and his family are paramount." The State Department statement on Wednesday called for their immediate release.

This week, Niger's new military junta took steps to entrench itself in power and rejected international efforts to mediate. On Wednesday, it accused former colonizer France of trying to destabilize the country, violate its closed airspace and discredit the junta leaders. France's foreign and defense ministries in a joint statement called the allegations unfounded.

Putin profits off global reliance on Russian nuclear fuel

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. and its European allies are importing vast amounts of nuclear fuel and compounds from Russia, providing Moscow with hundreds of millions of dollars in badly needed revenue as it wages war on Ukraine.

The sales, which are legal and unsanctioned, have raised alarms from nonproliferation experts and elected officials who say the imports are helping to bankroll the development of Moscow's nuclear arsenal and are complicating efforts to curtail Russia's war-making abilities. The dependence on Russian nuclear products—used mostly to fuel civilian reactors—leaves the U.S. and its allies open to energy shortages if Russian President Vladimir Putin were to cut off supplies. The challenge is likely to grow more intense as those nations seek to boost production of emissions-free electricity to combat climate change.

"We have to give money to the people who make weapons? That's absurd," said Henry Sokolski, executive director of the Washington-based Nonproliferation Policy Education Center. "If there isn't a clear rule that prevents nuclear power providers from importing fuel from Russia—and it's cheaper to get it from there—why wouldn't they do it?"

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Vivian Koyama Pangelinan-Cruz

Lovingly known as Vi

08/20/1949 ~ 08/02/2023 (Hawaii)
~ 08/03/2023 (Saipan)

In her new home, †Vivian will be greeted and reunited with her:

Spouse of 29 years: †Joaquin Benavente Cruz
Parents: †Henry Sablan Pangelinan, Sr.
†Monica (Hideko) Koyama Pangelinan
Parents In-Law: †Jose Duenas Cruz
†Virginia Benavente Cruz
Siblings: †Frederick K. Pangelinan
†Jose K. Pangelinan
†Damiana K. Pangelinan

Her memories will forever be in the hearts of her:
Children and their families:
Doreen M. & Joseph A. Tudela (**Joseph** & Rhine Russell; **Desiree** & David Camacho [David, Daena, Dylan, and Damien])
Gary P. Manglona (**Jerome** & Liz Tang [Ryuu, Amaiya, Kaylee & Athen]; **Nikita** & Kayne Rainey [Kayne, Jr. and Khya])
Daisy M. & Edwin K. Propst (**Kiana, Devin, Kaden & Logan**)
Mona P. Manglona (**Tyarah** & Ray Teregeyo [Rayarah]; **Tristin** & Jovilyn Delos Santos; **Sierra** & **Michael III**)

Step-Children:
†Vincent & †Elsie C. Fejeran and family
Frances A. & Dominick Didasa and family
Elaine A. & Fred Butts
Joey R. & Geraldine T. Cruz and family
Jack R. & Telma F. Cruz and family
Roland R. Cruz and family
Virginia R. Cruz & Jose Villagomez and family
Zack R. Cruz

Siblings and In-Laws:
†Frederick K. & Leonora D. Pangelinan and family
†Joseph K. & Maria A. Pangelinan and family
Ernesta P. & †Thomas B. Rueb and family
Mariano K. Pangelinan and family
Benny K. & Rosemary D. Pangelinan and family
Alfred K. & Cecilia P. Pangelinan and family
Paul K. & Maria C. Pangelinan and family
Henry K. & Rebecca F. Pangelinan and family
Norman K. & Cynthia C. Pangelinan and family
George K. Pangelinan and family
Evelyn P. Pangelinan and family
Nida Pangelinan and family
Peter Pangelinan and family
Cynthia Pangelinan and family
Glenn M. Pangelinan and family
James M. Pangelinan and family
Michelle M. Pangelinan and family
Evonne M. Pangelinan and family

In-Laws:
Joseph B. & Dolores Cruz and family

Sisters at Heart:
Ena P. Villagomez, Mina M. Benavente, Elsa P. Villagomez, Evelyn P. Calvo and †Dolores S. Moore

Family Caretakers:
Lilia D. Ordonez, Maria Arlene Q. Romaguera, Sol Quiachon and Cora Quiachon

†Vivian is also survived by numerous relatives and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at San Jose Church, Mon – Sat, at 6pm and Sundays at 9am ending on August 22, 2023.

Funeral services will be announced at a later date.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Domo Arigato Gozaimasu and Thank You

From the Children and Family

Off The Wall

Mega Millions ticket sold in Florida wins $1.58B jackpot

A Mega Millions ticket is seen as a person makes a purchase inside a convenience store, ahead of Tuesday's Mega Millions drawing of $1.55 billion, Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, in Kennesaw, Ga. AP

NEPTUNE BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A single ticket sold in Florida is good for a $1.58 billion Mega Millions jackpot, ending weeks of anticipation over who would win the eye-popping top prize.

A Publix grocery store in Neptune Beach sold the winning ticket, according to the Florida Lottery. The winning numbers drawn Tuesday night were 13, 19, 20, 32, 33 and the yellow ball 14.

A message was left seeking comment Wednesday from Publix.

James F. Davis, secretary of the Florida Lottery, said Wednesday that officials don't yet know who bought the winning ticket. He noted that the person has 180 days to present the ticket to lottery officials in Tallahassee to receive the winnings.

"These individuals are going to perhaps contact a lawyer, contact a financial adviser and make sure they get their ducks in a row," Davis told The Associated Press. "Because as you know when you are a winner you have an opportunity to be able to make such a difference in so many individual lives."

Davis was in Iowa on Wednesday for a meeting of the Multi-State Lottery Association.

"I actually walked into the meeting room and everyone proceeded to start clapping, which was pretty exciting and exhilarating all at the same time," he said.

Davis said he had been holding out hope that Florida would get a big winner in one of the multi-state lottery games, such as Mega Millions and Powerball.

"I'll just tell you the last two winners of the Powerball have been in California, and I've been keeping my fingers crossed for the next winner to be here in the state of Florida," he said.

One Publix employee arriving for work at the Neptune Beach store saw another and said "Mary, did you win the billion dollars?"

"Nope, and I assume you didn't, either," replied the other.

Neptune Beach is one of the many beachside communities along the Atlantic Ocean in northeast Florida. Like any beach town, it has a mix of affluent neighborhoods and some less-ideal spots. Several former and current players and coaches of the NFL football's Jacksonville Jaguars live in the area.

Before the big win, there had been 31 straight drawings since the last time someone won the game's jackpot on April 18. That enabled the prize to steadily grow to be the third-largest in U.S. history.

Mega Millions jackpot winners are so rare thanks to odds of one in 302.6 million.

The $1.58 billion payout would go to the winner if they opt for an annuity, doled out over 30 years. But people usually prefer a lump sum option, which for Tuesday's jackpot was an estimated $783.3 million.

Delayed passengers growl after a bear escapes from plane's cargo hold crate

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's prime minister has ordered an investigation into how a bear escaped from its crate in the cargo hold of an Iraqi aircraft as it was due to depart from Dubai airport, leaving passengers disgruntled over the delay and causing a stir on social media.

Iraqi Airways said it wasn't to blame for the bear's escape and that the aircraft's crew worked with authorities in the United Arab Emirates, which dispatched specialists to sedate the animal and remove it from the plane.

A video clip circulating on social media showed the plane's captain apologizing to passengers for Friday's takeoff delay because of the bear's escape from its crate in the cargo hold.

Iraqi Airways said Saturday that procedures to transport the bear were carried out in accordance with the law and with procedures and standards approved by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The airline said the bear was being flown from Baghdad to Dubai. But a person speaking on the video clip making the social media rounds suggested otherwise, saying the aircraft was an hour late for its trip to Baghdad and that passengers were being asked to disembark until the issue was resolved.

Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest for international travel, declined to comment.

An Iraqi Airways official confirmed to The Associated Press on Sunday that the bear was, in fact, being transported to the Iraqi capital. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he's not authorized to speak about the matter publicly, declined to name the animal's owner.

Keeping predatory animals as pets in Iraq—especially in Baghdad—has become popular among the wealthy.

Authorities have struggled to enforce legal provisions to protect wild animals. Baghdad's police has previously called on citizens to assist authorities in preventing such animals from being let loose on the city's streets or ending up as exotic meals in restaurant by reporting such cases.

Science & Technology

Paper exams, chatbot bans: Colleges seek to 'ChatGPT-proof' assignments

By JOCELYN GECKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When philosophy professor Darren Hick came across another case of cheating in his classroom at Furman University last semester, he posted an update to his followers on social media: "Aaaaand, I've caught my second ChatGPT plagiarist."

Friends and colleagues responded, some with wide-eyed emojis. Others expressed surprise.

"Only 2?! I've caught dozens," said Timothy Main, a writing professor at Conestoga College in Canada. "We're in full-on crisis mode."

Practically overnight, ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence chatbots have become the go-to source for cheating in college.

Now, educators are rethinking how they'll teach courses this fall from Writing 101 to computer science. Educators say they want to embrace the technology's potential to teach and learn in new ways, but when it comes to assessing students, they see a need to "ChatGPT-proof" test questions and assignments.

For some instructors that means a return to paper exams, after years of digital-only tests. Some professors will be requiring students to show editing history and drafts to prove their thought process. Other instructors are less concerned. Some students have always found ways to cheat, they say, and this is just the latest option.

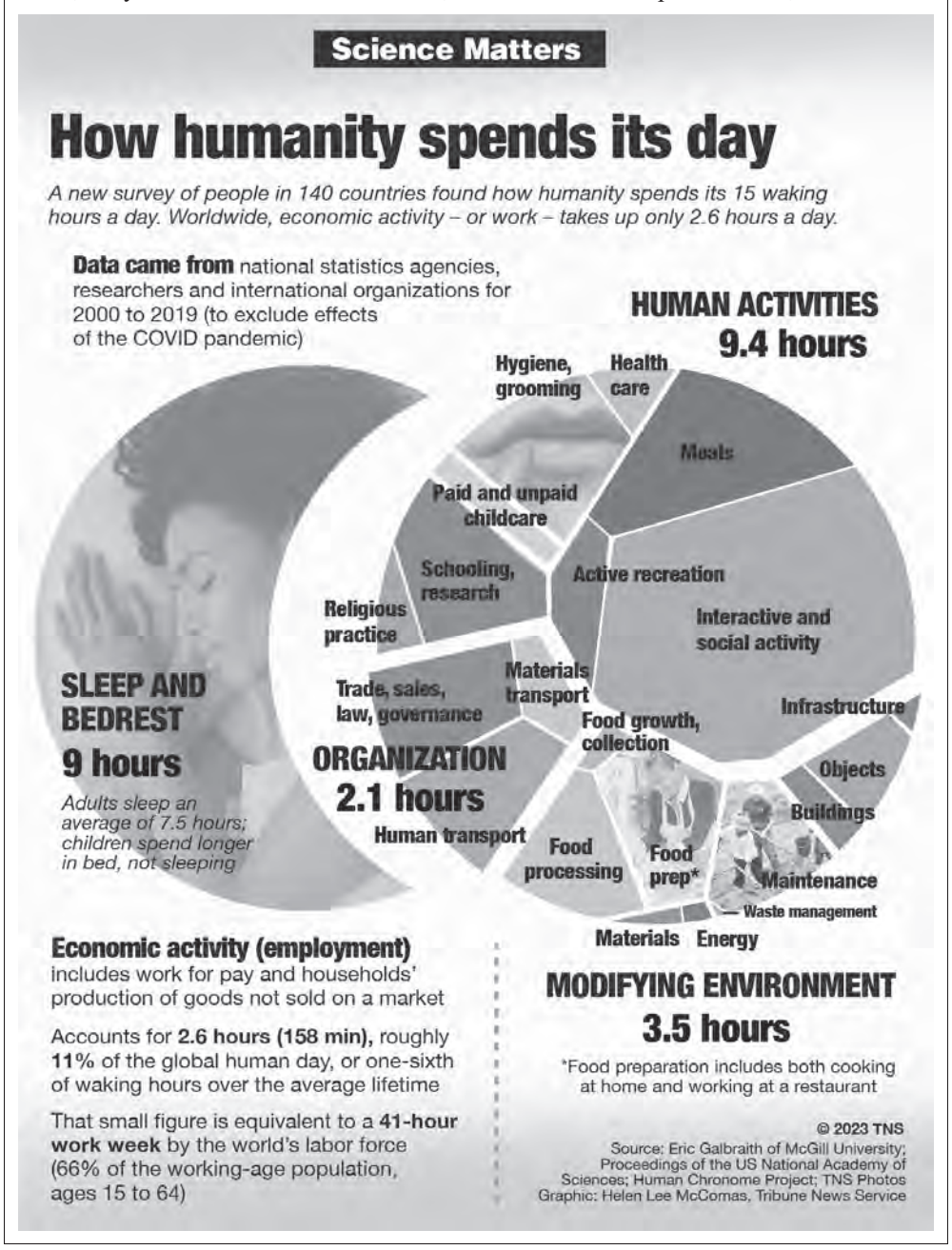
An explosion of AI-generated chatbots including ChatGPT, which launched in November, has raised new questions for academics dedicated to making sure not only that students can get the right answer, but also understand how to do the work. Educators say there is agreement at least on some of the most pressing challenges.

— Are AI detectors reliable? Not yet, says Stephanie Laggini Fiore, associate vice provost at Temple University. This summer, Fiore was part of a team at Temple that tested the detector used by Turnitin, a popular plagiarism detection service, and found it to be "incredibly inaccurate." It worked best at confirming human work, she said, but was spotty in identifying chatbot-generated text and least reliable with hybrid work.

— Will students get falsely accused of using artificial intelligence platforms to cheat? Absolutely. In one case last semester, a Texas A&M professor wrongly accused an entire class of using ChatGPT on final assignments. Most of the class was subsequently exonerated.

— So, how can educators be certain if a student has used an AI-powered chatbot dishonestly? It's nearly impossible unless a student confesses, as both of Hicks' students did. Unlike old-school plagiarism where text matches the source it is lifted from, AI-generated text is unique each time.

In some cases, the cheating is obvious, says Main, the writing professor, who has had students turn in assignments that were clearly cut-and-paste jobs. "I had answers come in that said, 'I am just an AI language model, I don't have an opinion on that,'" he said.


Science Matters
How humanity spends its day
A new survey of people in 140 countries found how humanity spends its 15 waking hours a day. Worldwide, economic activity – or work – takes up only 2.6 hours a day.
Data came from national statistics agencies, researchers and international organizations for 2000 to 2019 (to exclude effects of the COVID pandemic)
HUMAN ACTIVITIES
9.4 hours
Hygiene, grooming
Health care
Meals
Paid and unpaid childcare
Schooling, research
Active recreation
Religious practice
Interactive and social activity
SLEEP AND BEDREST
9 hours
Adults sleep an average of 7.5 hours; children spend longer in bed, not sleeping
Trade, sales, law, governance
Materials transport
Food growth, collection
Infrastructure
ORGANIZATION
2.1 hours
Human transport
Food processing
Food prep*
Objects
Buildings
Maintenance
Waste management
Materials
Energy
MODIFYING ENVIRONMENT
3.5 hours
Economic activity (employment) includes work for pay and households' production of goods not sold on a market
Accounts for 2.6 hours (158 min), roughly 11% of the global human day, or one-sixth of waking hours over the average lifetime
That small figure is equivalent to a 41-hour work week by the world's labor force (66% of the working-age population, ages 15 to 64)
*Food preparation includes both cooking at home and working at a restaurant
© 2023 TNS
Source: Eric Galbraith of McGill University; Proceedings of the US National Academy of Sciences; Human Chronome Project; TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Jolie joins producing team for Broadway-bound musical

NEW YORK (AP)—Add Angelina Jolie to the growing list of celebrities lately dipping their toes into producing on Broadway.

The Oscar-winning "Girl, Interrupted" actor has become a lead producer on the Broadway-bound new musical "The Outsiders," a show based on S.E. Hinton's novel and Francis Ford Coppola's 1983 coming-of-age crime drama.

"The Outsiders" had its world premiere at La Jolla Playhouse earlier this year. The Broadway cast and dates have not been revealed yet.

Jolie

"I hope to be able to contribute while continuing to learn from this amazing team, who I have been working with since my daughter brought me to see the show at La Jolla Playhouse," Jolie said in a statement. "I can't begin to express how excited I am for this musical to make its Broadway debut and look forward to sharing this new adaptation of 'The Outsiders' with the world."

Other celebs who have signed up to produce Broadway shows include Mariah Carey on the current hit "Some Like It Hot." Dwyane Wade, actor Gabrielle Union and RuPaul joined the producing team of the closed show "Ain't No Mo,'" and Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra Jonas joined the producing team of last season's "Chicken & Biscuits." Jennifer Hudson, Don Cheadle, Mindy Kaling and RuPaul were also among the producers of 2022's Tony-winner "A Strange Loop" while the current "Here Lies Love" boasts H.E.R., Jo Koy and Apl.de.Ap as producers.

"The Outsiders" musical features a story by Adam Rapp with Justin Levine, music and lyrics by Jonathan Clay, Zach Chance and Levine. It will be directed by Danya Taymor.

Hollywood strike matches 100-day mark of last writers' strike

NEW YORK (AP)—TV late-night comedy scribe Greg Iwinski, 38, was still only an aspiring writer when Hollywood writers held their landmark strike in 2007-2008.

But as he manned the picket lines Wednesday—the day the current strike hit its 100th day, matching the length of the previous one—he was keenly aware of all the history involved.

"I got a residual check yesterday for a show I worked on, because people went on strike in 1960, before I was even born," he said. "And so knowing that we could be doing that for people 60 years from now is incredibly motivating."

And yes, said Iwinski, who has written for "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert," "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver," and other shows, 100 days is a long time—but he is prepared to strike as long as it takes.

"Today is our 100th day of striking and we're striking for the same thing we were on Day One, which is a fair contract," he said. "We have the same two pages of proposals and the studios have not yet responded to all those proposals ... so I guess until that happens, we'll still be out here."

CHRIS PIZZELLO

Phoebe Price carries her dog Arnold along with a sign on a picket line outside Netflix studios on Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Wednesday's milestone comes as the U.S. film and television industries remain paralyzed by dual strikes by its actors and screenwriters. There's no foreseeable end—a negotiating session last week involving Hollywood studios and streamers and the striking writers ended with little progress. Television networks are a month away from starting a new fall season, and broadcasters have already put contingency plans in place for programming that excludes their most popular scripted series.

Hollywood's actors began their strike July 14, creating the first dual strike since 1960. Issues at play for both unions include the use of artificial intelligence and residuals related to streaming.

The Writers Guild of America held special pickets marking the 100th day in both New York and Los Angeles. Outside the Netflix offices on Broadway in Manhattan, the scene had an upbeat feel. A steady stream of protesters—both writers and their actor allies in SAG-AFTRA—danced, pounded on drums and chanted slogans as they marched around the city block.

Befitting writers, signs were markedly creative: "This Barbie is striking!!!" "Not Kenough." "The only free writing you deserve is this sign." "Writers make people happy (and sad)." And the simple: "No wages, no pages."

Disney to boost prices for ad-free Disney+ and Hulu services

By DAVID HAMILTON
Associated Press

Walt Disney Co. CEO Bob Iger vowed to make its streaming services profitable via a planned October price hike on its ad-free Disney+ and Hulu plans and a crackdown on password sharing expected to extend through next year.

The increases will raise the monthly cost of ad-free Disney+ by $3, or roughly 27%, to almost $14. The cost of ad-free Hulu will likewise rise $3 to almost $18 — a 20% hike that will make it more expensive than the most popular ad-free tier at Netflix.

Iger spoke following Disney's release of mixed earnings for its fiscal third quarter ended July 1. The company reported a substantial net loss while shedding customers in both domestic and international markets. Overall, Disney reported a 4% increase in revenue for the quarter but swung to a net loss of $460 million from a year-earlier profit of $1.4 billion. Disney shares, which closed at $87.49, rose roughly 2.2% to $89.45 in after-hours trading.

While Disney reported narrower losses on Disney+ in the quarter, the service lost domestic subscribers in the U.S. and Canada for the second straight quarter. Internationally, it racked up its third straight quarter of declines, although issues in the Indian market played a large role there.

How hip-hop went from being shunned by big business to multimillion-dollar collabs

NEW YORK (AP)—The signs of hip-hop's influence are everywhere—from Pharrell Williams becoming Louis Vuitton's men's creative director to billion-dollar brands like Dr. Dre's Beats headphones and retail mainstays like Diddy's Sean John and Jay-Z's Rocawear.

It didn't start out that way.

The music genre germinated 50 years ago as an escape from the poverty and violence of New York City's most distressed borough, the Bronx, where few wanted to invest in its businesses or its people. Out of that adversity blossomed an authentic style of expression, one that connected with the city's underserved Black and Latino teens and young adults, and filtered through to graffiti, dance and fashion.

As hip-hop spread throughout New York, so did a culture.

"Hip-hop goes beyond the music," said C. Keith Harrison, a professor and founding director for the University of Central Florida's Business of Hip-Hop Innovation & Creative Industries certificate program. "Hip-hop always knew, as Nipsey Hussle would say, how to get it out of the trunk, and so they've always had to have innovative business models."

Rude guests ruin the joy of treasured items

DEAR ABBY: How do I deal with guests and friends who make unfortunate comments about personal belongings in my home? For example, I have a favorite print of a woman seated at a table. A friend commented, "Oh, we used to call her Mrs. Potato Head." About my beautiful handwoven table runner depicting sliced fruit, a guest said, "Oh, those look like women's private parts!" I also display a beautiful statue of the three Graces, which I inherited from my beloved mother. Another friend piped up, "Oh, the three lesbians!" They have stolen the joy I had about the pieces. I can no longer look at these treasures without being reminded of those stupid, thoughtless remarks, and so I had to get rid of them. What do I do if this happens again, or how do I prevent it?

PROUD OF POSSESSIONS IN MAINE

DEAR PROUD: No one should feel forced to get rid of objects they love because someone makes a thoughtless remark. If you get rid of anything, consider divesting yourself of the individuals who made those comments (probably in a failed attempt to be witty). If you do, you will have fewer acquaintances you need to muzzle.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been raising our 5-year-old grandson, "Kent," since he was a baby. His mom, my daughter, was in his life but decided to leave him with us for six months, after which we hired a lawyer to gain custody of him. His mom has been absent from his life for two years. There's no relationship between them at all. Kent now calls me "Mom," and I don't know if it is a good idea that he calls me that. He has a mother but doesn't remember her at all. He has no idea that I'm not his birth mom. What should I do?

ONLY MOM HE KNOWS

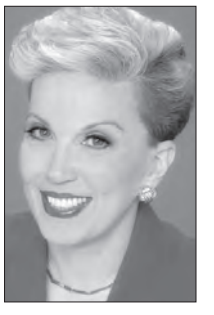
DEAR ONLY MOM: Of course Kent calls you "Mom." It is the role you have fulfilled since he was an infant. Do you have photos of your daughter around the house, or family albums? If you don't, consider displaying one or going through the family album with your grandson and explaining who is who in the pictures. If he starts asking questions as he gets older, explain in an age-appropriate manner that your daughter felt he would be better off under your care. Then introduce more information as needed, which would be better than hitting him with the whole story all at once.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorcee with two kids in college. I work as an aide. My boyfriend, a mechanic, has an auto shop. He charges me every time I take in my car (which is 14 years old) to be fixed or have an oil change. Friends at work are telling me he shouldn't charge me. I am confused. What do you think?

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

HAS TO PAY IN NEW YORK

DEAR HAS TO PAY: I'm glad you asked. When you take your car in for an oil change or repairs, you should reimburse your boyfriend for the oil and the parts. Because of your close personal relationship, a loving boyfriend might choose to give you a break on the labor, but that's up to him—and it's up to you whether he remains your boyfriend!

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

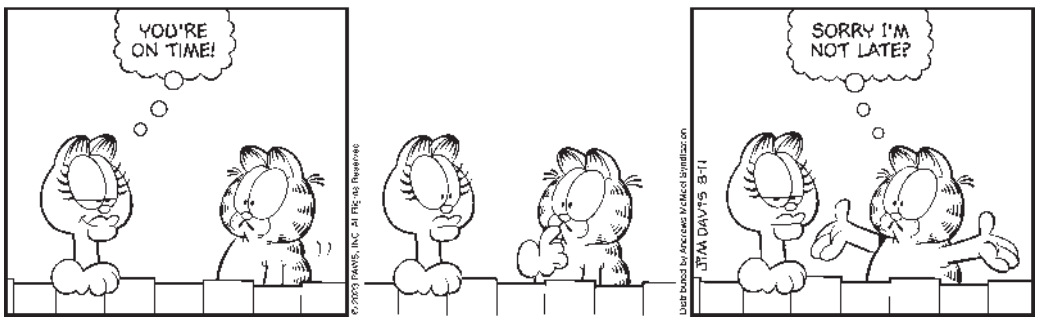
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THIS MUST BE THE CODED LETTER CALVIN'S TRYING TO GET ME TO READ. HMPH. NOT MUCH OF A CODE... JUST BACKWARD LETTERS! I CAN READ IT THROUGH THE BACK OF THE PAGE.
"DEAR HOBBES, IF SUSIE GOES BEHIND OUR HOUSE AT NOON, ALL OUR SECRET PLANS WILL BE RUINED. CALVIN"
GOSH, IT'S ALMOST NOON! I'D BETTER HURRY OVER TO CALVIN'S HOUSE IF I WANT TO SPOIL HIS PLANS!
WHEEE! HA HA! SHE FELL FOR IT! C'MON HOBBES, HURRY!

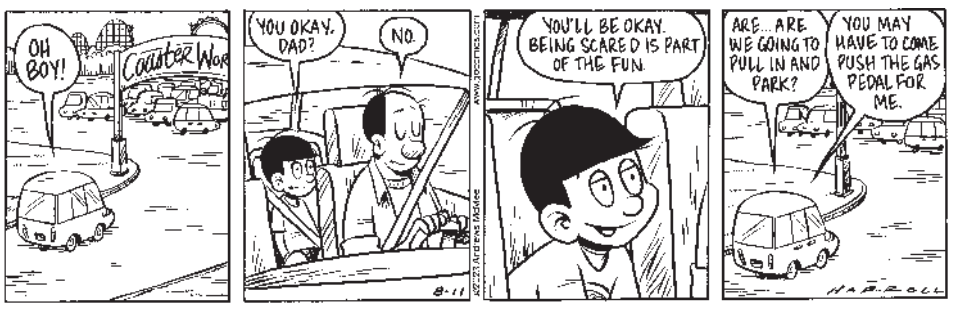
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



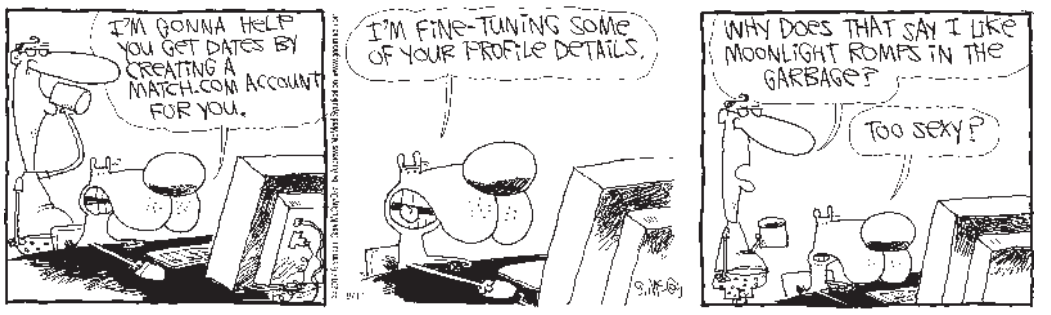
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OH BOY!
YOU OKAY, DAD?
NO.
YOU'LL BE OKAY. BEING SCARED IS PART OF THE FUN.
ARE... ARE WE GOING TO PULL IN AND PARK?
YOU MAY HAVE TO COME PUSH THE GAS PEDAL FOR ME.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M GONNA HELP YOU GET DATES BY CREATING A MATCH.COM ACCOUNT FOR YOU.
I'M FINE-TUNING SOME OF YOUR PROFILE DETAILS.
WHY DOES THAT SAY I LIKE MOONLIGHT ROMPS IN THE GARBAGE?
TOO SEXY?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Diamonds" singer
4 Chilled
8 Watchful one
12 "— -Tiki"
13 Undraped
14 Prefix with conference
15 Grammy-nominated No. 1 single by 50 Cent
17 James of "The Godfather"
18 Harvest
19 Nemo's creator
20 Drivers with handles
22 Slightly
24 Sax range
25 Train units with bars
29 Favorite
30 Moscow money
31 PBS supporter
32 Where to do laps in a pool
34 Goblet feature
35 Tranquil
36 Banisters
37 Church chimers
40 Rapper Snoop —
41 Skin care brand
42 Cocktail mixer
46 Skip
47 Highly rated
48 Fish-fowl link
49 Drill
50 Low voice
51 911 responder

DOWN
1 Enjoy the Alps
2 Bit of physics
3 Auto racer Mario
4 Early Peruvians
5 Robert of "I Spy"
6 College URL ender
7 Cotillion celeb
8 Long list's shortener (Abbr.)
9 Wine-label datum
10 Flair
11 Russo of "The Intern"
16 Saab model
19 Unspoken feeling
20 Beanies
21 Erupted, as a volcano
22 Photo book
23 Future tulip
25 Gather carefully
26 Daughter of Oedipus
27 Film spool
28 — Club
30 Some HDTVs
33 Rapper with the hip-hop hit "Ruffneck"
34 Droops
36 Judicial garb
37 Nitwit
38 Sailor's saint
39 Hideaway
40 Presses for payment
42 Taxi
43 Mauna —
44 — Pérignon
45 Louvre collection

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	M	O	R		S	O	N		A	F	A	R
G	A	P	E		I	I	I		V	A	T	S
F	I	F	V		T	L	C		A	N	A	T
S	E	D	A	K	A		E	P	I	C		
			M	A	N	Y	J	B	L	I	G	E
S	A	P	P	Y		E	O	S		H	O	E
A	S	I	S		T	A	B		B	U	L	L
S	I	E		D	O	R		C	O	L	D	S
H	I	P	H	O	P	S	O	U	L			
			L	L	L	S		H	L	I	G	N	S
P	I	A	S		P	E	A		V	E	E	P
H	A	T	S		I	L	L		I	N	C	A
O	G	E	E		N	O	S		A	S	K	S

Yesterday's answer 8-11

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
■	■	18				■	■	19				
20	21				■	22	23			■	■	■
24				■	25					26	27	28
29			■	30					■	31		
32			33					■	34			
■	■	■	35				■	36				
37	38	39			■	■	40				■	■
41				■	42	43					44	45
46				■	47				■	48		
49				■	50					51		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alyson Stoner, 30; Chris Hemsworth, 40; Ben Gibbard, 47; Hulk Hogan, 70.

Happy Birthday: Observation is your best bet when dealing with unpredictable situations. Control your emotions and look for choices that are less stressful. Maintenance will be necessary as you navigate from one position to the next. Change may be inevitable, but how you handle it can modify the outcome in your favor if you are moderate and target what's necessary. Your numbers are 7, 15, 23, 29, 37, 43, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Get out, mingle, sign up for events or activities that interest you, and socialize with people who share your interests. A makeover or trendy new look will make you stand out and boost your morale. Love and romance will enhance your life. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will be misleading if given the opportunity. Concentrate on being resourceful, ask questions and follow through when you are confident that the outcome will favor you. Protect against situations that result in health risks. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Emotions will make you vulnerable. Listen to the information you receive from someone who has the inside scoop on someone's intentions, and it will help you clear your head and divert a costly mistake. Make self-esteem and personal growth your priorities. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be resourceful and look at every angle of a situation before you commit. A change of plans may not be welcome, but the outcome will give you something to consider. Don't act in haste; go over every detail and make decisions based on facts. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Check your options and focus on what you must do to protect yourself and your assets. Refuse to let anyone talk you into something that will burden you emotionally, financially or physically. Surround yourself with people who have experience and your best interests at heart. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Slow down, assess each situation separately and refuse to let anyone decide for you. A take-charge attitude will give you the momentum to recognize what's best for you and follow your plans. Base your actions on facts, not emotions. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* What you want to do and what's best for you will conflict. Don't fold under pressure or give in to someone who tempts you. Kick back, take a break and spend downtime with someone who respects and loves you for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Money and emotions will clash. When faced with a need for a quick decision, get the facts, use common sense and make your move. Procrastination will cause regret and friction with someone you love and respect. Don't fear change. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your eyes open and verify information. Pay attention to how you feel and look; it will help you remain the go-to person in your circle. Refuse to let anyone weasel their way into your territory. Call a spade a spade. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Pay it forward, and do something that makes you feel good regarding your contribution. Be the one to start a movement that draws awareness to a worthy cause. An issue someone has will lead to controversy and financial loss if you don't act fast. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't expect to agree with everyone you encounter. Let bygones be bygones, and go about your business. You'll achieve far more if you do your own thing and offer others the same right. Make self-improvement and love your priorities. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Give your all, and you'll get your way. An opportunity that offers better money management and a stellar lifestyle is apparent. Take the initiative to line up those you want by your side. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, flexible and friendly. You are resourceful and spontaneous.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1		8						3
		5	6		9			
	2	6		4		1		
				9	6			1
								4
	3					2	9	
		3		8		4		
	8					5		
	6				3		8	

Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	3	5	2	7	4	1	9	8
8	2	7	9	3	1	5	6	4
1	9	4	6	5	8	3	2	7
4	7	6	8	1	9	2	3	5
9	1	8	5	2	3	4	7	6
3	5	2	7	4	6	9	8	1
7	6	3	4	9	5	8	1	2
5	8	9	1	6	2	7	4	3
2	4	1	3	8	7	6	5	9

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/10

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LET'S MEET AT THE ... Solution: 10 letters

C	O	K	I	T	C	H	E	N	E	D	R	A	G	L
B	F	N	R	E	V	A	T	R	U	O	C	A	A	O
U	E	R	C	A	F	E	P	E	F	E	T	U	L	U
L	M	P	A	R	K	A	Y	V	C	H	N	H	L	N
C	O	Y	F	H	T	A	I	I	E	D	E	I	E	G
H	H	R	P	I	W	H	F	R	R	G	B	L	R	E
A	C	E	O	F	C	F	I	O	A	R	D	L	Y	K
P	R	K	L	N	O	N	M	R	A	E	E	S	G	A
E	U	A	E	E	G	A	A	R	H	N	N	E	A	L
L	H	B	G	Y	T	G	Y	N	O	I	T	A	T	S
A	C	A	B	A	Y	S	A	O	U	D	I	H	E	R
Z	L	B	B	M	A	L	L	M	S	O	S	M	O	K
A	O	L	P	H	C	A	E	B	E	S	T	O	R	E
L	E	T	O	H	S	Q	U	A	R	E	D	O	A	N
Ⓟ	Ⓞ	Ⓞ	Ⓛ	O	O	H	C	S	H	O	W	Z	B	D

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Bakery, Bar, Beach, Bench, Cafe, Chapel, Church, Club, Court, Dentist, Diner, Door, End, Fair, Gala, Gallery, Game, Garage, Garden, Gate, Gathering, Gym, Halfway, Hills, Home, Hotel, House, Kitchen, Lake, Laundromat, Library, Lobby, Lounge, Mall, Office, Park, Patio, Plaza, Pole, Pool, River, Saloon, School, Show, Square, Station, Store, Table, Tavern, Wharf, Work, Zoom

Yesterday's Answer: Grandstand

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367.

Lorenzen throws no-hitter as Phillies beat Nationals, 7-0

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Lorenzen threw the 14th no-hitter in Philadelphia Phillies history, a dazzling performance in only his second start with his new team, which beat the Washington Nationals 7-0 on Wednesday night.

The 31-year-old Lorenzen (7-7) struck out five, walked four and improved to 2-0 since he was acquired from Detroit at the trade deadline for a minor leaguer. Lorenzen retired Lane Thomas on a grounder to open the ninth and struck out Joey Meneses looking. The crowd of 30,406 erupted when Lorenzen retired Dominic Smith on a flyball on his 124th pitch to end the game.

Washington was no-hit for the first time in its 19 seasons since the franchise moved from Montreal.

The no-hitter was the fourth in the majors this season.

Phillies left fielder Weston Wilson homered in his first major league plate appearance and after nearly 2,900 at-bats in the minor leagues. Nick Castellanos homered twice to reach 200 for his career.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Michael Lorenzen, left, and J.T. Realmuto celebrate after Lorenzen's no-hitter during a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, in Philadelphia.

ATHLETICS 2, RANGERS 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Freddy Tarnok threw four scoreless innings relief for his first MLB win and five Oakland pitchers combined for a four-hitter as the Athletics snapped AL West-leading Texas' eight-game winning streak.

Zack Gelof hit his sixth homer of the season and rookie Esteury Riuiz singled, stole two bases to raise his season total to 46 and scored the A's first run.

Oakland won for just the eighth time in 23 games since the All-Star break. The Rangers entered the game with their longest winning streak since 2017 and leading their division by three games over the Houston Astros.

Tarnok (1-1) anchored the A's on the mound in relief of opener Austin Pruitt, giving up two hits and two walks with four strikeouts in the the longest and most efficient outing of his career.

BREWERS 7, ROCKIES 6, 10 INNINGS

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Mark Canha scored the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning on a throwing error by shortstop Ezequiel Tovar off a grounder by Andruw Monasterio and NL Central-leading Milwaukee beat Colorado.

Justin Lawrence (3-5) started the 10th with a pitch-strike violation on Canha, who lined the next pitch to deep center for a ground-rule double that scored William Contreras and tied the game. Canha advanced on a ground out and, one out later, scored the winning run when Tovar short-hopped a throw to first on a ground ball off the bat of Monasterio.

Bryse Wilson (4-0) picked up the win despite allowing a run in the top of the 10th.

MARLINS 5, REDS 4

CINCINNATI (AP)—Josh Bell homered twice and drove in four runs, Bryan De La Cruz hit the go-ahead shot in the ninth and Miami rallied late to beat Cincinnati.

Trailing 4-1, Bell hit a game-tying three-run home run in the eighth inning before De La Cruz led off the ninth by going the opposite way to right field against Alexis Diaz (3-4). Bell gave the Marlins a 1-0 lead with a second-inning solo shot.

Graham Ashcraft pitched seven impressive innings, Christian Encarnacion-Strand homered and drove in three runs for the Reds, who have lost eight of their past nine games.

Spencer Steer also homered and Joey Votto had three hits for the Reds.

RED SOX 4, ROYALS 3

BOSTON (AP)—Alex Verdugo had a two-run double to help Boston beat Kansas City in a game with one of the strangest ground-rule doubles in Fenway Park history.

In the top of the second inning with two out and Matt Duffy on first base, Kyle Isbel lashed a drive to left field that looked as if it would be caught by Masataka Yoshida, who lunged and clasped his glove. But Yoshida missed the ball, crashing into the wall. He got up, clearly confused, looking around for the ball.

The ball was not on the field. It had smashed through one of the red lights on the wall that denote the number of outs. Yoshida picked the ball through the hole in the light, with the play ruled a ground-rule double.

The Red Sox scored three runs in fourth to erase a one-run deficit on Verdugo's two-run double and Reese McGuire's RBI single.

BLUE JAYS 1, GUARDIANS 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—George Springer homered in the first inning and Kevin Gausman struck out six in a combined six-hitter to lead Toronto.

Springer belted a 393-foot shot to left-center on the 13th pitch of his at-bat against Logan Allen (5-5), delighting the boisterous Blue Jays fans who occupied most of the lower bowl at Progressive Field.

Gausman (9-6), an All-Star for Toronto this season, worked seven innings, scattering four hits without a walk and increasing his AL-leading strikeout total to 183. Erik Swanson, Tim Mayza and Jordan Hicks followed as Toronto posted its 12th shutout, tying for the most in the majors.

DODGERS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 0

PHOENIX (AP)—David Peralta's bases-loaded, two-run single against his former team broke a scoreless tie in the eighth inning and Los Angeles beat Arizona.

The win was the fourth in a row for the Dodgers while the Diamondbacks lost their eight straight. The loss dropped them under .500 for the first time since they lost the home opener to the Dodgers on April 6 to go 3-4.

Arizona led the NL West by a half-game over the Dodgers at the All-Star break. Since then, the Dodgers are 16-8 and the Diamondbacks are 5-19.

With two outs in the eighth, Freddie Freeman greeted Kyle Nelson (5-3) with his MLB-leading 42nd double. Will Smith was walked intentionally and Max Muncy drew a walk to load the bases for Peralta, who played his first nine seasons for Arizona. He lined a single to right to score Freeman and Smith.

METS 4. CUBS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Pete Alonso launched yet another homer against Chicago, and Jeff McNeil hit a tiebreaking shot that sent New York to a win.

With the bases loaded in the ninth inning, Phil Bickford struck out No. 3 batter Ian Happ to save it for New York. It was Bickford's second major league save — first for the Mets since being acquired from the Los Angeles Dodgers for cash at last week's trade deadline.

The Cubs lost for just the sixth time in 22 games and fell 2 1/2 games behind first-place Milwaukee in the NL Central. Christopher Morel and Seiya Suzuki homered for the Chicago, bunched with several teams fighting tooth-and-nail for the league's final wild card.

Grant Hartwig (4-1) worked 2 1/3 scoreless innings in relief of Mets starter David Peterson.

Jonathan Araúz added an RBI single and the Mets got strong work from their shaky bullpen to take two of three games from the Cubs, who won their previous six series.

BRAVES 6, PIRATES 5

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Ronald Acuña Jr. slugged three hits and Michael Harris II tagged on a popup to right field and scored on a close call in the eighth inning, lifting Atlanta past Pittsburgh.

Harris raced home on Austin Riley's fly into shallow right off Carmen Mlodzinski (2-3) that was fielded by backpeddling Jared Triolo. Harris slid in ahead of the throw to home by the second baseman. He was originally called out for possibly having left third before Triolo caught the ball, but the call was reversed following a review and the Braves moved ahead 6-5.

Acuña was 3 for 6, including an RBI double in the fourth, one day after leaving in the sixth inning after being hit on the left elbow by a pitch from Colin Holderman.

TIGERS 9, TWINS 5

DETROIT (AP)—Spencer Torkelson homered twice and Detroit had 17 hits in win over Minnesota.

Miguel Cabrera went 3 for 4, giving him 3,145 career hits to move past Robin Yount into sole possession of 19th place on the career list. Cabrera, who is hitting .331 in his last 40 games, received a standing ovation after being replaced by a pinch-runner after his third single.

Matt Vierling, Zach McKinstry and Eric Haase also had three hits for Detroit.

CARDINALS 6, RAYS 4

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Paul Goldschmidt surpassed 1,100 RBIs with a two-run single and St. Louis beat Tampa Bay.

Goldschmidt put the Cardinals ahead 5-2 on his two-run hit off Kevin Kelly (4-2) during the fourth. The St. Louis slugger has 1,101 RBIs.

Dakota Hudson (3-0) gave up three runs and seven hits over five innings in his third start and ninth appearance since being called up from Triple-A Memphis last month.

Giovanny Gallegos, the fourth Cardinals reliever, worked a perfect ninth for his ninth save in 14 chances.

ANGELS 4, GIANTS 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Shohei Ohtani allowed one unearned run over six innings of three-hit ball, earning his 10th victory of the season after Mike Moustakas hit a tiebreaking three-run homer to lead Los Angeles.

Ohtani (10-5) surpassed Babe Ruth in yet another measure of two-way excellence at the Big A, becoming the first player in major league history to have multiple seasons with both 10 victories and 10 homers.

Ohtani hasn't allowed an earned run in 19 innings over his last three starts, but the AL MVP frontrunner had to work hard against the Giants' tenacious lineup while issuing three walks and striking out five. Ohtani walked twice and struck out twice at the plate, scoring a run in the Angels' decisive four-run rally.

MARINERS 6, PADRES 1

SEATTLE (AP)—Cal Raleigh put Seattle ahead with a two-run home run in the bottom of the eighth inning, Emerson Hancock allowed just two hits in his major league debut and the Mariners got their seventh straight win.

Raleigh's 450-foot homer came against San Diego reliever Steven Wilson (1-1), and started a five-run inning for the Mariners. Ty France drove in another run in the inning with an RBI double, and later scored on a bloop single by Cade Marlowe.

Hancock allowed just one run in five innings, combining with five relievers on a four-hitter.

ASTROS 8, ORIOLES 2

BALTIMORE (AP)—Kyle Tucker homered for the second straight night to give Houston an early lead and the Astros added four runs in the eighth inning in a win over Baltimore.

Austin Hays went deep for the Orioles, who have gone 75 consecutive series of at least two decisions without being swept. Houston can end that streak Thursday after taking the first two games of this three-game set.

The AL East-leading Orioles remained two games ahead of Tampa Bay thanks to St. Louis' victory over the Rays. The Astros pulled within two of first-place Texas in the AL West.

WHITE SOX 9, YANKEES 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Mike Clevinger pitched six strong innings, Elvis Andrus drove in three runs and Chicago won for the fourth time in five games.

Yoan Moncada doubled twice and scored one run while Yasmani Grandal had two hits with an RBI and a run. Gregory Santos pitched two scoreless innings to earn his third save of the season.

The Yankees have now lost seven out of their last 11 games. They began the day five games back from a wild-card spot.

The only offense they could muster against Clevinger was a solo homer by Giancarlo Stanton—his 18th. The Yankees were 0 for 7 with runners in scoring position as Clevinger (5-5) held them to three hits.

Solid North, Easy Riders edge foes in Eagles caging

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A solid and easy time are words best to describe the Solid North's 81-74 win against Priority Care last Wednesday night and the Easy Riders' 63-41 victory over the ironically named Winners last Tuesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Both Solid North and Easy Riders claimed wins in the Open Division of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023.

Solid North and Priority Care started off strong with a close 15-14 first quarter.

Priority Care, with the king of the court, Steve King, scored 27 points by the end of the third quarter and managed to keep pace with Solid North's fast break and sharp plays.

It wasn't until the last quarter when Solid North began to pull away with Daryll Foronda's 22 points throughout the game.

It was a good passing game for Solid North as almost all players contributed to their team's points, while it was a dynamic duo of Matt Duenas and King who carried Priority Care.

Duenas had 21 markers while King ended up with half of the team's points with 37. Even so, both of their efforts were dwarfed by Solid North's teamwork and chemistry.

J.V. Bayking's 14 points, Jessi Bobares' additional 8, and Leightliy Lovie's 7 markers assisted Foronda to their first win of the season.

In Tuesday night's game between the Easy Riders and the Winners, although it was a close game throughout the first two quarters, the Winners' defense and offense started to break down.

Utilizing the Easy Riders' defensive prowess of Andrew Ashburn and De Shawn Reign, along with the team's offensive pinpoint accuracy and great passing game, allowed the Easy Riders to coast away into a big lead by the third quarter.

While the second quarter ended with only a 3-point deficit, 26-23, in favor of the Easy Riders, the third quarter ended with a huge 44-28 lead as the Winners were reduced to just five points in that quarter.

Meanwhile, Ashburn put up 11 points in the game, while Frank Ferrer and Craig Padayao were not far behind with 10 markers each.

The Winners' Jeter Medina tried to shoulder his team's burden by scoring 22 of his team's 41 points, but it wasn't enough to close the gap without much assistance from the rest of his teammates.

The other open division game last Tuesday was between the CK Saints and the 670 Rollers, with a blowout win by the Saints, 79-48. The first game on Wednesday was a masters division game with JSN taking the win against Win Pacific, 99-55.

Easy Riders 63 – Ashburn 11, Ferrer 10, Padayao 10, Domine 8, Javier 7, Directo 4, Diwa 3, Reign 3, Gaviola 3, De Guzman 2, Camacho 2.

Winners 41 – Medina 22, Llave 5, Roncal 4, Mejarito 2, Pineda 2, Romo 2, Rebasquillo 2, Flores 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-14, 26-23, 44-28, 63-41.

Solid North 81 – Foronda 22, Bayking 14, Bobares 8, Lovie 7, Ege 6, Malinay 5, Sapo 4, Antonio 4, Toribio 3, Leon 3, Basi 2, Fundador 2, Gallardo 1.

Priority Care 74 – King 37, Duenas 21, Agulto 6, Pelisamen 2, Elameto 2, Omar 2, Tilipao 2, Manglona 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-14, 34-29, 58-54, 81-74.

LEIGH GASES

Easy Riders' defense puts pressure against a Winners player during their game in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 last Tuesday night.

COACH

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cuts corners in practice."

Kimura said other coaches also took notice of Alekensko's feats in the pool during the World Championships.

"After his 100m butterfly, many national coaches talked to me. A Russian coach who is coaching Thailand asked me 'Where is the Northern Mariana Islands?' and then followed up by asking 'How do you train and do you have a pool?' He kept asking me too many questions. He was so surprised when I answered that we didn't have a swimming pool and Isaiah practices at a 19m pool. I also received official recruiting from one of the strongest Japanese college teams. The head coach emailed me that Isaiah was a talent who could go to the finals of the Olympics if he trained in college. He said Isaiah could make 50 seconds in 100m butterfly! (Isaiah's time in this World Championships was 54 seconds) and I totally agree with him."

As for Batallones, Kimura said the future is bright for the young mermaid, but they need to be patient.

"Just turned 15 in June and breaking a national record is amazing. But we have to keep calm now. This national record time is only 15-16 AA on the U.S. Time Standard. FINA point is also 540. Her goal is to set her own national record time with AAAA and over 600."

Compared to Batallones, Kimura said Aleksenko's 100m butterfly national record is far above AAAA 17-18 and he accumulated 748 FINA points to boot.

Kimura, however, admits that like Aleksenko, Batallones is also a special talent.

"When I decide on a child's style-1 stroke, I look at ankle flexibility and leg pit flexibility in breastroke. No matter how much the child likes breastroke, style-1 will not be a breastroke for a child who is not good at kicking. Kicking is a natural talent with the leg's flexibility and is difficult to change with practice. There are two types of breastroke kicks, the wedge kick and the whip kick, and the whip kick is said to be faster. Maria has been doing this whip kick since she did breastroke kick for the first time. I believe her national record was born from polishing this kick," he said.

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation vice president John Hirsh, meanwhile, said he had fruitful meetings during the course of the 20th FINA World Championships.

"On the regional front, Oceania swimming is excited about the Pacific Games in the Solomons and preparation for the Olympics in Paris. At the international level, Husain Al Musallam from Kuwait was elected at the World Aquatics Congress as president for the next eight years. Also announced was that the World Aquatics headquarters is moving from Switzerland to Hungary."

Hirsh added that he also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Mrytha, a major international swimming pool company.

"They are a major sponsor of World Aquatics and hope to assist with the pool project on Saipan that is being funded through the [U.S. Economic Development Administration] grant to redevelop the Oleai Sports Complex."

The NMISF official also congratulated swimmers Aleksenko, Batallones, Jakey Deleon Guerrero, and Shoko Litulumar as well as coaches Kimura and Christian Villacruis for representing the CNMI well in the World Championships.

"Overall a great trip and so proud of our local swimmers and all their accomplishments!" he said.

CARDS

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throws to first baseman Poland Masaharu which were in time against speedy Junior National runners for two big outs—while Cardinals catcher Jerald Cabrera showed off his arm with a missile of a pickoff throw to second base from an attempted steal.

The Cardinals then took it a step further and extended their lead some more and made the tie-breaking third game out of the youngsters' reach by adding three runs. The first in the inning was from a perfectly executed bunt by pinch hitter Nate Smith—which caused chaos as the Junior Nationals' defense could not get a grip on the ball to get Smith out at first base.

Pat Tenorio sped home from his heads up baserunning as the defensive miscues were unfolding, and the faltering Junior Nationals' defense continued when a passed ball by the catcher—coupled with a throwing error to third base brought Smith home for the second run, which made it 10-5.

That play knocked out Junior Nats pitcher J.P. Sablan from the game, but the pitching change came a little too late as the Cardinals had already exposed the Junior Nationals' weak spots in their pitching and defense.

The new pitcher Angelo Igitol came in to stop the bleeding, but not after an RBI double by Yamada brought home Tony Tenorio for an 11-5 game.

The last at-bat for the Junior Nationals bore no fruit and the Cardinals celebrated their perfect season and championship win on the field after the final out.

Even as the lights went out for the final game of the 2023 season, the future looks bright for baseball in the CNMI as the young ball players of the Junior Nationals' grit, passion, and sportsmanship, blended and balanced well with the knowledge, skill, and experience of the seasoned Cardinals team for a season and championship series to remember—and hopefully its competitiveness is replicated or matched in the seasons to come.

MARIANAS

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pressive 3-0 triumph in the deciding Game 2 for an aggregate score of 3-1.

"This is a milestone for us, a reflection of how far we have come since starting the NMIFA in 2005. We must continue to work hard to close the gap with teams that have way longer soccer history than us. GFA has been in existence for 48 years, we are on our 18th," added Tan, who reiterated the significant contributions of GFA to the NMI soccer development. "We are rivals on the pitch, but we remain strong partners off the pitch. GFA has been with us, assisting us since Day 1."

Solid crowd support

The resumption of the NMI-Guam rivalry on the pitch last week drew around 11,000 views online and brought together hundreds of fans at the packed bleachers and surrounding fence lines at NMI Soccer Training Center.

NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka joined the gallery of fans that supported the NMI teams at the Marianas Football Cup 2023 and took note of the impact the spectators created at the event.

"At this year's 2023 Marianas Football Cup 2023, the first thing that one could see was that there was excitement in the air with a very full crowd from all ages in the NMISTC plus additional spectators sitting and standing around the entire pitch fence line. This, combined with a drummer with full drum set and speakers and two digital video scoreboards continually flashing new photos and information, set the tone for a festive but intensive atmosphere. I say intensive because the matches themselves were intense, our players were more aggressive and played much more offensively. With some spectators also drumming along the fence line and others waving the CNMI flags and chanting for NMI, I'm sure this also helped to inspire our players to go for the double men's and women's national team wins this year," Izuka said.

"With a strong turnout at both Thursday and Saturday evening matches, it is clear we've come a long way from the early days of our Marianas Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex where there was limited seating and many of the spectators were the volunteers. I believe that is a testament to the continual growth of players of all ages who are enjoying this beautiful sport in the NMI," she added.

Connie Camacho was also part of the throng of spectators at the NMISTC last week. Being a member of the first NMI Women's National Team that played in the Micronesian Football Cup in 2007, she was overwhelmed with what she saw in the pair of games.

"The skill level has significantly improved. You see younger and faster players. But what amazed me more is the crowd that showed up and supported the teams. I remember when we played at the Oleai Sports Complex in 2007, it's not that much. We have a lot of spectators tonight, children and their family members. It's also nice to see how we have a very good facility that makes it comfortable and easy for spectators to come and enjoy the game," Camacho said.

Michael Camacho, who just returned to Saipan recently after living in Arizona for years, passed by Koblerville last week and he said he was surprised, but happy to see a facility built in the village. He left the island in 2017 when the NMISTC was just being constructed so seeing the facility now being utilized for different activities is very beneficial to the community.

Meanwhile, the NMIFA would like to thank the following for sponsoring the Marianas Football Cup 2023: Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, USA Fanter, Triple J, IT&E, Quality Distributors, GPPC, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, D&Q, TakeCare Insurance, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and Island Apparel. The NMIFA also acknowledged the Commonwealth Communications, KSPN, *Marianas Variety,* and *Saipan Tribune* for the media coverage. ***(PR)***

CNMI all in for the Land of the Rising Sun

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Angeles

Canape

Chavez

Del Rosario

Lubao

Manabat

Monroyo

Pagarao

Ruszala

Zapanta

As the CNMI National Soccer Team is still waking up from the dream Marianas Soccer Cup sweep against rivals Guam last week, these soccer heads turned their attention to the big stage as the FIFA Women's World Cup is down to the Elite 8.

Who are these soccer fanatics rooting for this year? Well, Team Philippines—which made history as they scored their first ever goal in the Cup, but fell against a mighty Swede team, was a top pick for CNMI soccer fans.

The defending champs—the US of A—the red, white, and blue also made a dramatic and nonsensical exit in the early stages and therefore fell off the top picks. So, what else made sense to choose from?

Japan. Nihon. The Land of the Rising Sun. A huge supporter of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association since its inception, it made 100% sense for the following fanatics/players of the world's No. 1 sport to root for Japan this year. It's not just this bias, or the fact that we are in the same Pacific region that they were the unanimous top pick of these fans this year.

Take a look at their reasons why.

■ ■ ■

"Nadeshiko's will win the finals against the Matilda's. Japan Women's team is technical and hold an untouchable team chemistry."

—Sebastien Manabat, Kanoa FC

"Japan will win because since the first game they played in the FIFA Women's World Cup they look composed, tactical, and always find a new way to score goals so basically versatile. They are already ready when they have a new opponent to win. And in the final it would be Japan vs. France."

—John Guiller Canape, TSLF admin assistant

"I am rooting for Japan because I love how they play. In addition, Japan has always been supporting the CNMI when it comes to football. The NMI U-23 National Team recently went to Japan for training camp this year and they did a phenomenal job hosting us. I believe Japan and France will be in the finals. France also has a great squad and they have a lot of potential reaching the finals."

—Brian Lubao, NMC student

"Japan because of their consistent strong showing in the Group Stage and Round of 16. Fourteen goals scored and just 1 conceded. Plus, Japan has given NMI soccer a lot of support through the years."

—Roselyn Monroyo, TSLF public relations manager

"Was rooting for the Philippines of course but they were eliminated in the first round. I am rooting for Japan but… I believe Australia will win the WC this year. Solid defense plus the home-field advantage. It will be Japan and Australia in the finals."

—Jersh Angeles, NMIFA coach

"Now that the U.S. women are out of the tournament, I'm rooting for Japan. Japan recently scored a 3-1 victory over Norway and will face a tough Swedish team that just knocked off the Americans. If they can make it through the quarterfinals, I think they have a great chance to win it all. It doesn't hurt that our NMI national coaches have hailed from Japan and the JFA has done a lot for our local program, so I'm going all-in for Nadeshiko Japan!"

—Brad Ruszala, Triple J marketing manager

"Japan for me. They are in Asia and they've been playing well as a team. Aggressive when defending and very organized when attacking."

—Irish Pagarao, NMIFA coach

"I am with 'Nadeshiko' because they are able to control the tempo of the game on and off the ball. Japan's 3-4-3 formation allowed them to control most of the game and they could switch out half the starting lineup without disrupting the team's flow. Hinata Miyazawa's runs in the box always overwhelm the opposing team's back line, as well as Yui Hasegawa's superb vision from her home in the heart of midfield."

—Norman Del Rosario, former NMIFA Executive Committee member

"I'm rooting for Japan because I like how they play. They play so simple but so deadly at the same time. Their touches are so crisp and they play as a team."

—Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, SIS student-athlete

"Spain-Japan-Australia-England. Hoping Japan vs. Australia in the finals."

—Ross Zapanta, NMIFA general secretary

Chess official sees 'massive boom' in CNMI

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A visiting official from the Oceania Chess Confederation has high hopes for the game of kings in the CNMI.

Oceania Chess Confederation deputy president Jamie Kenmure met with Boy Ching, president of the newly formed CNMI Chess Association, as well as an official from the Northern Marianas Sports Association during his brief stay on Saipan.

"Chess in the CNMI during the COVID times really peaked online… Getting back to the board stuff though we can see that there will be a massive boom here," said Kenmure.

The Melbourne, Australia native said he used to contribute chess articles for a local newspaper on Saipan and was encouraged with the feedback he was getting.

Fresh from helping with last week's Guam International Chess Tournament, where Philippine grandmaster Eugene Torre ruled the roost, Kenmure said he didn't want to miss a chance to visit Saipan and update the Oceania Chess Confederation about chess in the Commonwealth.

"My plan is to get not only all the stakeholders together but get government support and NMSA to support chess. I also want to get the [the Public School System] to support chess and get more schools involved."

One local school that already has a chess program is the Isla Montessori School, where Kenmure said there are about 20 students playing the board game.

"I know there are other schools that are interested in chess as well. This is what we need. The educational benefits that will help foster from chess into the communities are tremendous. It will help the future generations look toward new ideas and shape their country, their territory—it's absolutely important."

As for his meeting with NMSA, Kenmure encourages the local chess federation to join the sports body so chess can develop in the CNMI at a more rapid pace.

"I think this is a great opportunity to really explore and develop chess and to look at ways on how we can get an agreement [with NMSA] because there is a lot of potential for the sport here," he said.

Kenmure also is looking at the sport as a way to form a bridge among the diverse population and cultures of the CNMI.

"There's a lot of Filipino chess players here and we're also looking at attracting a lot of the local people here—Chamorros and Carolinian—to play the sport as well. I want to get Carolinian people involved. This is very important for chess. It keeps cultures alive and keeps language alive, but through something that's educational like chess. That's what I want to see."

He said he already saw the growth of chess among the Chamorros in Guam and hopes it could be replicated here.

"Getting back to the Guam Chess International, I want to point out that there were seven Chamorro players playing in that event. This is a massive increase. They only had two or three players before and now they have seven."

During the said trip to Guam, not only did Kenmure reconnect with Torre, who is Asia's first chess grandmaster and a good friend, but he also had a chance to meet with Micronesian Games Council secretary general Joey Miranda III.

"We are looking at how we can include chess in the Micronesian Games. I would love to see the CNMI represented in chess in the Micronesian Games."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Oceania Chess Confederation deputy president Jamie Kenmure poses with the CNMI flag inside the NMSA conference room at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

And speaking of Guam, Kenmure also observed that the youth movement in the sport in the U.S. territory is as strong as ever.

"It featured just over 60 players. There were a lot of juniors that participated and about 60% of the field were actually juniors, which is a great turnout. You want to see juniors play chess. It's great for the mind. It's great for many life skills and educational benefits as well."

Of Torre, Kenmure said he basically dominated the Guam International Chess Tournament, winning all nine of his matches "for a vicious score" and a "picket fence."

"He supports developing chess nations. He believes that his presence as a GM helps inspire other people to play strong and be better."

While on Saipan, Kenmure also did a bit of sightseeing as Ching and company toured him to the usual tourist sites like the Grotto, Bird Island Lookout, Suicide Cliff, among others.

"I must say Saipan is a hidden treasure of the Pacific. What we need to look at is how we can actually improve it with tourism," he said.

Lorenzen throws no-hitter as Phillies beat Nationals, 7-0.

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CNMI all in for the Land of the Rising Sun.

PAGE 23

Cards cap undefeated season with title

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Cardinals are the undisputed champions of the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League after crushing the Junior Nationals, 11-5, in the second and final game of the best-of-three championship series last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

LEIGH GASES

The undefeated Cardinals pose for a photo after they swept the Junior Nationals in two games of the best-of-three championship series in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The dragged out comeback season of baseball in the CNMI came to an exciting end on a mercifully dry and clear night, as the seasoned veterans squared off against the islands' future of baseball.

The undefeated Cardinals' chemistry and constant practice weaved them a comfortable cushion of confidence on the field, on the mound, and in the batters' box. The regular season belonged to them—as well as the postseason, and they hoped to finish the season off unscathed—which they did.

The Junior Nationals fought fiercely, but their inexperience occasionally led to missed opportunities—just like when two of their runners in scoring position were picked off from bad base running and wrapped into a double play in the fifth inning—which foiled their chance to catch up from a four-run deficit, 1-5.

The Cardinals weren't sweating it just yet as they put up two more runs in the sixth inning by way of runs from Tony Tenorio and Shane Yamada.

But the Junior Nationals threatened in their at-bat when back-to-back base on balls by Cardinals pitcher Shane Mendiola to Joel Deleon Guerrero, Justin Camacho, and Jon Diaz loaded the bases—and knocked Mendiola out of the game.

This time, the Junior Nats capitalized and brought those three runners home from a sacrifice fly by Jylon Sablan, an RBI double by Joell Borja, and an RBI single by J.R. Suel, for a 7-4 game.

However, the Cardinals' defense tightened and held them off to just three runs. On the other end, their offense inched further into the lead as Eli Aughenbaugh scored in the seventh inning to make it 8-4.

The Junior Nationals went down in order in the eighth inning as the Cardinals' experience proved pivotal—turning defensive plays into crucial three outs to dash the Junior Nationals' run at a late game rally.

The Cardinals' third baseman and the league's batting leader, Nokki Saralu, flashed his skills with the leather that matched his prowess with the bat when he made two smooth catches and

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Coach Hiro 'amazed' by record-breakers Isaiah, Maria

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CNMI national swimming coach Hiroyuki Kimura can't help but feel amazed by the record-breaking performances of Isaiah Aleksenko and Maria Batallones in the recent 20th FINA World Championships.

In the Fukuoka, Japan meet, the two combined for 10 new CNMI and age group records and 12 if you include the 4x100 freestyle relay and 4x100 mixed relay.

Aleksenko reset both age group and national records in the 50m and 100m backstroke and 50m and 100m butterfly, while Batallones is now the 15-16 and national record-holder in the 50m breaststroke.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Maria Batallones in action in the 50m breaststroke of the 20th FINA World Championships.

"So amazing. But I had expected it. However, we don't know what will happen if swimmers don't try the race. I felt so amazing once again when the official results came out," Kimura said of Aleksenko's swims in the short course Aquatics Championships.

The Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center head coach said the biggest factor in Aleksenko's development is how much he practices.

"Isaiah practices six times a week. Three of them he doubles with weight training and swim training. We also have practice on Saturday early morning. Of course he has great potential, but what made it bloom was the amount of practice he does. Another big factor is his mental strength as he never

See COACH on Page 22

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI national swimming coach Hiroyuki Kimura, left, poses with Isaiah Aleksenko in last month's 20th FINA World Championships.

Marianas Football Cup sweep product of team effort

As the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association celebrated the victories of the NMI U23 Women's and Men's National Teams in the Marianas Football Cup 2023, the NMIFA also attributed the historic sweep to individuals and groups that supported the return of the competition.

"It's a team effort. The success of the Marianas Football Cup 2023 and the NMI's wins were made possible by our hard-working coaches, the players who dedicated their time and effort in the training sessions, the organizers of this event from the NMIFA and Guam Football Association sides, our generous sponsors, the volunteers, and of course the spectators. All of them played significant roles in the Marianas Football Cup that allowed us to witness exciting games last week," NMIFA president Jerry Tan said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Top left and bottom photos show spectators crowd the bleachers and fence line at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville as they watched the games at the Marianas Football Cup 2023 last Saturday, while a big LED screen, top right, is used to display the event's graphics.

The NMI U23 Women's National Team defeated Guam in Games 1 (5-1) and 2 (2-0) for an aggregate score of 7-1, in the Aug. 3 and 5 matches. In the men's U23 division, Guam took Game 1, 1-0, but the NMI managed to steal the victory in the end of the two-leg series, as the host team recorded an im-

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